

The Pope to meet the Queen

The Queen and the Pope will meet during the Pope's visit to Britain, but no date has been fixed, Buckingham Palace announced. Pope in Nigeria, page 6; Archbishop's plea, page 12

Atlantic air earnings loss

The Government is worried that Britain is losing its position as a major air hub because of the Laker collapse. Britain and the United States are each allowed two airlines on the routes, but British Airways is now fighting Pan American and Trans World alone

De Lorean fears grow

Fears are growing that receivers could be called into the De Lorean car plant in Belfast this week. Mr James Prior, the Northern Ireland Secretary, is expected to tell Mr John De Lorean today that no more Government money is available

Rifle triggers US concern

The filming of an American soldier carrying an automatic rifle in El Salvador has started a chain reaction in Washington that is likely to lead to sharp questions in Congress on American policy in Central America

Papers pledge to winners

The Daily Mail announced that every winner in its latest "Casino" game would receive an equal share of a £35,000 prize and go forward into a second draw with another £35,000 prize for the winner. More than 3,000 have claimed

Funeral protest

The funeral of Dr Neil Aspin in Johannesburg turned into one of South Africa's biggest anti-government demonstrations for years. About 2000 mourners packed into his cathedral, thousands more lined the streets

Rape review

The treatment of rape victims in court may lead to a revision of police procedures, Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, said. The need for new legislation would depend on how the police and judges reacted to the changes

Nato strength

Mr Caspar Weinberger, the United States Defense Secretary, has asked Western Europe to contribute more to Nato defence. Otherwise, he said, there was a risk that America might opt for isolation

Poodle top dog

Grayco Heselnut, the toy poodle champion at Crufts Show was declared Supreme Champion. A German Shepherd was the reserve

England defeated

Sri Lanka beat England by three runs in the second one-day international cricket match in Colombo. England won the first match by five runs

The Times this week

Four voices from the West

There is anxiety in the capitals of the West about the direction and unity of the NATO alliance in the wake of the Polish coup. The Times has therefore invited four former national leaders to write individual perspectives based on their deep experience.

In a series beginning tomorrow, the uncertainty in NATO and the future direction of Western strategy will be examined by Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's national security adviser 1976-80.

Willy Brandt, former West German Chancellor; Maurice Couve de Murville, former Prime Minister of France; and James Callaghan, British Prime Minister 1976-79, will follow.

Leader page, 11 Letters: On income tax cuts, from Sir William Clark, MP, and Mr Michael Grylls, MP; fares subsidy, from Mr Ken Livingstone

Leading articles: SDP; Syria Features, pages 9, 10 Why Britain can lower interest rates now; Singapore, 40 years after the British surrender; George Mikis enjoying life at 70

Obituary, page 11 Miss Anne Shaw, Mr Victor Jory

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Jenkins likely leader in wider SDP franchise

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Social Democratic Party yesterday emerged from a day and a half of purposeful debate with a more democratic and flexible draft constitution, which will go to all 78,000 members at the end of next month for ratification.

The ballot form will seek the members' verdict on the document as a whole, and on the two specific points which most roused and divided the convention in Kensington, west London. These were the method of electing the leader and the question of whether men and women should be equally represented on the main policy-forming body, the Council for Social Democracy.

The vote on giving women half the council seats produced a tie on Saturday, despite Mrs Shirley Williams's pleas from the platform. She had urged the party to make the enhancement of opportunities for women a substantial part of its appeal.

There were more women in the Commons in 1951 than there were today, she said, and it was no good saying that things were getting better.

The women's lobby secured two lesser victories. They are to have special representation for women on the national committee, the controlling organization of the party outside Parliament, and also the right to inclusion on short-lists for selection of parliamentary candidates.

But equal representation on the council was the main goal and this concept may be rejected as too modern by the mass membership.

Mrs Williams said yesterday that such an outcome would mean that the party was less radical than she had hoped.

The leadership conundrum was reduced from eight bright ideas to three firm proposals. Members must decide whether the leader should be chosen by MPs alone, without endorsement by the wider party; by every member of the party with no special vote for MPs; or a compromise under which every one would have a vote in the first leadership election, but subsequent elections would be left to MPs.

The one-member one-vote system was the preference of 166 of the 305 accredited representatives. But, when asked to refine their choice, in a second ballot, they opted by 83 votes to 81, with two abstentions, for the system to be reviewed after three years.

Unless the Kensington convention proves wholly unrepresentative, the party seems certain to adopt the proposal.

The party seems tolerant enough to the observer. But it likes words, particularly in constitutions, to have precise and comprehensible meanings.

Convention reports, page 4

Leading article, page 11

The agency said—Reuters and cting to demonstrations, the crowd shouted hostile slogans. Without giving further details, the agency said police calls for the crowd to disperse were ignored. Police then moved in and arrested 194 people, mostly high school and university students or persons who are neither employed nor studying anywhere.

It added that of those arrested 162 people were "punished by misdemeanor courts".

As a result of the disorders in Poznan, the regional defence committee decided to tighten a number of martial law restrictions which previously had been eased. As of tomorrow, private cars are banned in Poznan and the sale of petrol is prohibited except to people granted special permits such as doctors, veterinary surgeons and suppliers of farm produce.

Cinemas, theatres and other public entertainment had been closed, AFP

Defiant Warsaw, page 5

From Stephen Taylor, Salisbury, Feb 14

Mr Robert Mugabe made a scathing personal attack this weekend on Mr Joshua Nkomo, his partner in Zimbabwe's coalition Government. He said a decision would be taken this week on the future of their alliance after the discovery of huge arms caches on farms owned by Mr Nkomo's Patriotic Front.

The Prime Minister's speech was the most forceful public criticism he has ever made of his old rival. It included a list of what he described as Mr Nkomo's failures and shortcomings as a leader, which observers saw as a suggestion to resign.

Likening Mr Nkomo and his party to "a cobra in the house", Mr Mugabe said: "The only way to deal with a snake is to strike and destroy it. How else can I describe a man we supposed was our friend and whom we invited to be part of the Government when it could have been just our party?"

Mr Robert Mugabe (left), Joshua Nkomo (right), who called his partner, Mr Nkomo, "a cobra in the house".

Mr Mugabe's speech was a consequence of a series of searches of Patriotic Front farms over the past week which have turned up caches of machineguns, ground-to-air missiles, mortars and automatic rifles.

Addressing a rally in Marandellas, Mr Mugabe said that Patriotic Front officials would be asked to explain the existence of the caches and that action by his own Zanu (PF) party could be expected to follow this week. He said he was deeply upset that while his party had been striving to consolidate Zimbabwe's independence the Patriotic Front had been stockpiling weapons to arm 20,000 men and "start another war".

FA Cup: The Law versus The Rest



The fifth round of the FA Cup on Saturday brought more than its usual share of surprise results and a number of arrests after fighting between rival groups of fans (our Sports Staff writes). Over 60 people were arrested

before the start of the Chelsea-Liverpool game at Stamford Bridge (above, a policeman, truncheon in hand, moves in on a scuffle inside the ground) and there were more arrests at Euston Station, London, where sup-

porters of Liverpool, Birmingham City, Aston Villa and other clubs were congregating. No serious injuries were reported save to Liverpool's pride: they lost 2-0.

Reports, page 17

Rebels hold out on island in Hama

From Robert Fisk, Damascus, Feb 14

The Syrian Government's attempt to portray the uprising at Hama as a localized battle between the extremist Muslim Brotherhood and regular Syrian troops in the city had crumbled and crossed over to the side of the rebels.

In Damascus, where the violence is inevitably being projected as part of an American plot, government officials took the unprecedented step of informing foreign correspondents that they risked being shot by the security police if they tried to travel to Hama.

One dispatch—originating in Turkey—talked of an entire Syrian division transferring its allegiance to the Brotherhood; the story is unconfirmed but it does give some indication of the serious state into which Syria's internal security has now fallen.

Fighting continued in Hama for the twelfth successive day today as units of special forces troops tried to force their way into the medieval streets of the old city. The rebels—who clearly comprise more than just a few extremists—are using rocket launchers as well as automatic rifles and hand grenades in the battles along the south-western banks of the Orontes river. The district, once popular with tourists for its wooden waterwheels and Islamic museum, is now under tank and mortar attack by government troops.

The fact that the rebels are holding out in buildings on an island in the old city—connected to the riverbank by a narrow bridge—makes the task of assaulting their positions all the more difficult.

One resident from Hama, who arrived in Damascus at the weekend, said that he had tried to leave the city when his house was destroyed by shell fire. Casualties are put between 2,000 and 3,000 dead and wounded.

The Government announced this afternoon that the main road between Damascus and the northern city of Aleppo—which runs through Hama—had been reopened although

Continued on back page, col 5

Government inquiry urged into transfer of 'Times' titles

By Staff Reporters

The Opposition is to ask the Government to examine whether the transfer of the titles of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* from Times Newspapers Ltd to Mr Rupert Murdoch's News International breaches the conditions imposed when Mr Murdoch took over the newspapers last year.

The transfer was agreed by the executive board of Times Newspapers Ltd (TNL) in December. The newspapers' independent national directors on the main Times Newspapers Holding Board were not consulted, an omission described yesterday as "breaching subterfuge" by Mr John Smith, the Shadow Trade Minister, who is to ask Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, to intervene.

Sir William Rees-Mogg, former editor of *The Times*, has also written to Mr Biffen describing the transfer as illegal and "clearly a breach of the agreement made at the time of the sale and, more importantly, of the conditions attached for your approval".

Sir William added that the transfer would obviously facilitate closure of the newspapers' editorial offices in London and that the transfer was not agreed by the end of the week. The demands are for 500 redundancies from TNL's 2,500 full-time employees.

Mr Murdoch, who is in the United States, told *The Sunday Times* that the transfer was made on legal advice to protect the titles. "It does not in any way affect either the control of these newspapers, or the guarantees of editorial independence which were given by News International at the time of the purchase of Times Newspapers," he said.

The move was agreed unanimously by the board of Times Newspapers. The special role of the independent directors in no way affected.

Another TNL board member, Mr Roy Eckberg, former company secretary of TNL and now financial director of the company and of News International, said: "The board of TNL have behaved perfectly correctly in the context of the legal advice we received."

The argument centres on undertakings given by Mr Murdoch when he took over the newspapers and also on the conditions imposed by Mr Biffen before he agreed to the sale, without reference to the Monopolies Commission. These were later incorporated in the articles of association.

In a statement on the proposed purchase of *The Times*, *The Sunday Times* and its three supplements, Mr Biffen said on January 27, 1981: "NII (News International) shall not without the consent of the board of the independent national directors of the time being of Times Newspapers Holdings Ltd (TNHL) do anything, or procure or permit anything to be done, which shall result in: (i) the transfer, ceasing to be a new paper proprietor in relation to

The Times or *The Sunday Times*, or (ii) either NII or Times Newspapers Ltd (TNL), ceasing to be a subsidiary (within the meaning of section 154 of Companies Act, 1948) of NII, or (iii) TNL selling or otherwise disposing of any interest in *The Times* or *The Sunday Times*."

he later condition carried criminal law sanctions of a fine or up to two years' imprisonment, or both, under the Fair Trading Act, 1973. Similar penalties could be imposed if the papers were not published separately.

In February 1981 a new clause in the articles of association of TNL was adopted by the board of the company. This said: "Neither the directors nor the company shall have power to do anything or procure or permit anything to be done which shall result in the selling or otherwise disposing of any interest in either *The Times* newspaper or *The Sunday Times* newspaper or the business of publishing either newspaper except on terms approved by and with the prior consent of Times Newspapers Holdings Limited in accordance with their company's Articles of Association."

Several national directors and other members of the main TNL holding company board, of which Mr Murdoch is chairman, yesterday continued to insist that the transfer of Lord Dacre of the newspaper proprietor in relation to

Continued on back page, col 1

Soviet debts to Western banks up by \$6,000m

The Soviet Union's net debts to Western banks rose by more than \$6,000m (£3,260m), to \$10,860m during the first nine months of 1981 according to a survey by the Bank of International Settlements in Basle.

The debt increase coincided with substantial sales by Russia of gold and oil despite a falling market.

At the same time, indebtedness to Western banks by members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has increased for the first time since 1978.

Details, page 13

Delaying action on lead in petrol 'would be criminal'

By George Brock

A major firm of management consultants, Coopers and Lybrand, criticise the Government in a report today for not making a commitment to lead-free petrol. Britain would be "criminal", it says, not to take every reasonable precaution against lead pollution even while there is still scientific debate about the dangers.

The report was commissioned by the Campaign for Lead-free Air (CLEAR) and follows a defence in the House of Commons by Mrs Thatcher of Government policy to reduce the lead content to 0.15 grams per litre by 1985.

Mrs Thatcher was answering questions from Mr Michael Foot after *The Times* published a letter from the Government's Chief Medical Officer, Sir Henry Yellowless, which warned last year that action should be taken over the dangers of lead in petrol which was putting at risk the health of thousands of children.

Coopers and Lybrand were asked by CLEAR to review recent scientific literature and to comment on the benefits and implications of a move to lead-free petrol. They concluded: "We thus have a situation where the potential costs of totally removing lead from petrol are substantial. Although difficult to assess without further research, it is possible within a few years to remove all lead from petrol, while still enabling the motor vehicle to operate effectively."

However, on the other side of the equation the potential costs of not removing the lead from petrol are uncertain but potentially enormous. The growing evidence that the intelligence of a substantial number of children may be adversely affected must be of major concern."

Although recommending more research into particular aspects of the problem, the consultants echo the Chief Medical Officer in saying that Government decisions should not wait for conclusive scientific proof. Lead pollution is, they say, a complex and difficult subject and it may prove even more difficult than in the case of the health effects of smoking to quickly produce a cast iron demonstration that proves beyond all reasonable doubt the connection between lead absorption and health and behavioural effects.

The report analyses five options which were taken into account when the Government made its decision last year and which were published by the Department of Transport two years ago. "Option 2" was a reduction of petrol lead content to a maximum of 0.15 grams per litre—the choice eventually announced by the Government.

"Option 5" was for the Government to insist that new cars should run on lead-free petrol. But, Coopers and Lybrand said, the report totally overlooked the further possibility of combining Options 2 and 5, a practical alternative which would achieve three objectives: the fastest reduction of lead emissions in car exhausts; the eventual introduction of lead-free petrol and the elimination of uncertainty for the petrol lead car industries.

Amoco, a leading oil company, has said it is considering producing lead-free petrol for the British market and could have supplied it years ago had Government regulations required it, according to a report in *The Sunday Times* yesterday.

A king trapped in a sandy maze

From Trevor Fishlock, Chambal Valley, north-west India

Malkhan is a bandit king. It says so on the headed paper he uses to send threats and taunts to the policemen hunting him. It says so, too, on the rubber stamp he hangs on the ransom notes he dispatches to wealthy men whose sons he has kidnapped.

He and his gang have killed and kidnapped many people. There are more than a hundred serious crimes listed against them. The police have put them at the top of the league of ruthless dacoits who plague and terrorize this region of northern India.

There is a swagger about Malkhan, in keeping with his status and the high price on his head. His headed note-paper is not mere insolence or black humour. He rules by menace but sees himself as a principled and justified chief. He deals out rough justice and does out money. Robin Hood fashion, and villagers touch his feet in respect.

He is 38, tall, thin, and watchful, and wears khaki police uniform with a superior's rank on the epaulettes and his name in Hindi on his tunic breast.

His support is being eroded, his food sources watched. He knows that—sooner or later—someone may betray him for money or revenge.

But Malkhan is cunning and the net still has holes in it. He has slipped across the Chambal River at dusk and made for a village near the town of Bind. There were two scores to settle: an 18-year feud with a farmer, and the matter of a man who had tried to poison one of his gang.

This second business was quickly done. The man was shot from his home. "Poisoner," Malkhan said, and shot him.

Revenge on the farmer was more profitable. Malkhan abducted his son, aged 24, and kept him for three months in the forests before the father raised the equivalent of £3,000 to get his son back.

Kidnapping along with routine extortion is the dacoit's greatest money maker.

Some of Malkhan's loot pays for temple upkeep. He is religious and tries to worship at an image of bloody-mouthed Kali, Goddess of Death, every Monday.

He also heeds portents. The sight of a snake can lead to cancellation of a raid. More practically he forbids the womanizing and drinking that have led to the betrayal and death of other bandits. The also sleeps apart from the gang, his bodyguard on watch.

But even cunning and careful dacoits make mistakes. Pan Singh, another top-league killer and kidnapper, wanted for more than 50 crimes, made a fatal error last October. His men found refuge in a walled village near Bind, believing caste fellowship with the villagers secured their safety.

The last entry in Pan Singh's captured diary shows he spent 30 rupees (£1.80) on whisky and 150 rupees on a goat to feast on.

Last race ended in hail of bullets

But the police were told and 300 men ringed the village. The shooting went on for hours—and in the end Pan Singh made a run for it.

In running, he has been his life. In his prime he had been an Indian sports hero, an international athlete, holder for 10 years of the national 3,000 metres record. Then he became embroiled in a land feud in his village, and committed murder; it was the usual way of settling quarrels in this violent region. He fled to the ravines and set up as a bandit.

This last desperate race ended in a hail of bullets.

Popular songs in the Chambal Valley say that death in battle is better than death in bed, that "a man whose enemy sleeps has no right to live". They are part of the glamour that clings to outlaws in a region the size of Wales unique for its tradition of brigandage. This is the first of two articles by Trevor Fishlock on the bandits of northern India.

Next: the police task.

DELHI

AGRA

UTTAR PRADESH

MORANA

BLIND

BIJAJOUR

MADHYA PRADESH

60 miles

Warning of more crime as police spending is cut

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Cuts in police spending have been agreed by the Strathclyde police and fire committee despite a warning by police of rising crime. And the West Midlands force also expects to face cuts as county council committee chairmen today resume a meeting adjourned after six hours on Friday to decide what to do.

Mr Edwin Shore, chairman of the West Midlands Police Authority, said the police budget would be cut even though there was a 13 per cent rise in crime in the area last year.

The cuts will undermine the Government's promises that priority will be given to maintaining a strong police force.

The West Midlands is one of six provincial police forces where 5,000 jobs are threatened, according to the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities.

Mr Patrick Hamill, Strathclyde's Chief Constable, has linked a big crime increase there with financial cuts. The further squeeze decided by the police and fire committee on Thursday comes after a 3 per cent cut last year.

Strathclyde Regional Council's net expenditure on the police, at 1980 prices, fell from £100,169,000 in 1980-81 to £96,964,000 in 1981-82, and a proposed cut of a further £299,000 comes up for re-consideration by the full council on March 3.

In a letter to the committee in December, Mr Hamill reported that crime up to September last year was 11.4 per cent higher than in the same period in 1980. His annual report, due out on March 25, is expected to show a similar rise for the whole year.

Mr Hamill says that an important factor in the crime rise has been a reduction in preventive policing because the force had less money. He said the real cut in police on the streets was well over 150.

Newspapers bingo code sought by Opposition

By Kenneth Gosling

Mr John Fraser, the opposition consumer affairs spokesman, yesterday called on Government departments to join with the Office of Fair Trading in drawing up a code of conduct for newspaper bingo competitions after thousands of Daily Mail readers on Saturday visited and telephoned the newspaper's offices in the belief that they had won a large prize.

"It would avoid the bitter disappointment that they suffered after thinking they had won a lot of money when they checked their coupons," he said. Mr Fraser said it was his view that bingo games were ruinous to newspapers that featured them.

The Daily Mail's game is called "Casino" and is played with coupons distributed to homes.

On Saturday the paper published two numbers, 11 and 26, for Game Six, which had been running for 11 days. The flood-gates opened and many readers who discovered that they had 17 numbers on their coupons, qualifying them for a prize or at least a share in a prize, headed for the paper's London offices.

The game offers a jackpot of £70,000 or a reduced, and shared, payout of £35,000 if no claim based on the first of the published numbers is received. The newspaper issued a statement asking claimants to send winning entries to them by recorded delivery, to arrive not later than tomorrow.

Mr Fraser said: "I think the papers that indulge in bingo all wish they could get out." He said this was not the first mix-up there had been in newspaper games. "There are already codes of conduct in other areas, such as prize draws, and I think the Department of Trade should look at it."

Newspaper bingo has been helping to increase the circulation of the popular dailies. The tabloids together put on more than 500,000 copies in the last six months of last year.

Hazel is the queen of Cruft's



Top dog: Champion Grayco Hazelnut, which was last night named Supreme Champion of Crufts, with her owner, Mrs Lesley Ann Howard, of Godstone, Surrey. Mrs Howard immediately announced that three-year-old Hazel, the first toy poodle to win the title since 1966, would be retiring. A Scottish terrier, one of the six finalists, was withdrawn because the dog lived at the home of a judge.

Laker collapse brings Atlantic cash loss

By Arthur Reed

The Government is becoming increasingly worried about the amount of invisible earnings the country is losing on the air routes across the North Atlantic because of the financial collapse of Sir Freddie Laker's airline, Laker Airways.

Under the terms of the Bermuda II air services agreement with the United States, Britain is allowed two airlines on the busy London-New York and London-Los Angeles routes to compete against two US carriers.

Britain's nominees are British Airways and Laker, up against Pan American and Trans World, and the demise of Laker Airways means that BA is taking over the two US "giants" on its own.

Britain's overall share of the traffic, and therefore its earnings, are expected to go down as Pan Am and TWA increase their aggressive marketing in an attempt to attract passengers who would have travelled by Laker.

That significant gap in the British air route network is likely to remain for some weeks, however, as the Civil Aviation Act says down a lengthy process to be followed by the Civil Aviation Authority before it can choose a successor to Laker.

The two main contenders are British Caledonian Airways, whose chairman, Mr Adam Thomson, has already made clear that he wants to pick up the London-Los Angeles licence, a route which the airline operated between 1972 and 1974, and Sir Freddie Laker, with his new partner, Mr Roland (Tiny) Rowland, chief executive of Lombar.

British Caledonian filed a formal application for Los Angeles with the aviation authority just before the weekend, commenting: "There can be no possible argument against the fact that the experiment to licence Laker Airways to operate via the North Atlantic has failed in the past dramatic way, with an effect on thousands of consumers on both sides of the Atlantic."

"The most honourable solution is to sweep away the Laker Airways debris and let the airline be resurrected to pursue its interrupted proper role for a viable second British service between London and Los Angeles."

Technically, Laker still holds the New York and Los Angeles licences, which were operated with the airline's cheap fare Skytrain services. The CAA gave notice on the day of the collapse, February 5, of its intention to suspend them.

That notice was not received until four days later, and the Act lays down that suspension cannot take place until at least six working days after receipt, which makes Wednesday of this week the earliest day.

But the authority does not have to take immediate action, particularly if there are representations against suspension. It is understood that such representations have already been made. When a final decision to suspend is made, the Act lays down a further 21-day period before the licences can be revoked.

There are two options open to Sir Freddie in his efforts to start flying with his "people's airline". He can either wipe the slate clean and apply to start up as a completely new operator, or he can seek to have the existing licences transferred to a reconstructed company.

Although the procedure at the aviation authority would be slightly different in each case, he would be expected to prove in both instances that he is a fit and proper person financially and operationally to run an airline, and that his management record was satisfactory.

Opportunities would have to be given to objectors to state the case, and it is understood that both BCal and British Airways would demand hearings.

In either case the procedure would be lengthy, and the chances of a new or revived airline flying the Atlantic by Sir Freddie's stated target date of April seem slim.

Meanwhile, Sir Freddie flew to Paris yesterday on a private aircraft owned by the Lombar company. The reason for his trip was not immediately known, but Mr Paul Spicer, a Lombar director, said he thought it was likely Sir Freddie was having talks with the Lombar syndicate, which is owed about £121m for loans on DC10s and Airbus.

British Airways, a subsidiary of British Airways, announced yesterday that it had won a contract worth £11m to carry passengers on a new service for Owners' Services Ltd, Viking to destinations in Europe this summer. That contract, which involves about 160,000 passengers, was previously held by Laker Airways.

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Science report

History of the biggest visitor

By the Staff of "Nature"

The chequered history of the largest single meteorite fragment to have reached the surface of the earth in recent times has been revealed by a series of measurements of short-lived radioactive materials carried out in Tokyo University and in San Diego, California.

The meteorite, which fell in the Jilin province, China on March 8, 1976, is remarkable because about 400,000 fragments were recovered from the surface of the earth, the largest consisting of a lump of rock weighing about 1,700 tons.

The investigations carried out suggest that the Jilin meteorite was part of a much larger interplanetary object, about half a million years old.

The Jilin meteorite has been recognized for years as one of the largest extraterrestrial objects to have reached the surface of the earth in recent times. Only in the past few years, however, have samples of the meteorite been made available to investigators outside China. Although Chinese studies of the meteorite soon after its fall provided some information about its previous history, the data from the recent investigations are neither revealing nor reliable.

Investigations of newly fallen meteorites are potentially valuable because they can throw light on the recent history of the object and, in particular, on its exposure to cosmic rays. Such bombardment induces measurable radioactivity in the outer and more directly exposed layers of a meteorite. From this it is possible to deduce the length of time for which those layers have been exposed to cosmic rays.

By similar measurements of samples taken from different depths beneath the surface of a meteorite, it is possible to work out the position of the meteorite fragment reaching the surface of the earth within the presumably larger object of which it was once a part.

Measurements of activity within the Jilin meteorite have been carried out by M. Honda of the University of Tokyo and K. Nishizumi of the University of California at San Diego, together with several associates at Japanese universities. One of the radioactive materials used in the analysis, the isotope of aluminium called ²⁶Al, has a half-life of about 700,000 years, and is a particularly useful guide to the history of the Jilin meteorite.

From the distribution of this and other radioactive isotopes within the fragments of the Jilin meteorite, the scientists conclude that the meteorite which produced the fragments falling over China in 1976 was a lump of rock about a metre and half across, which had been travelling through interplanetary space in that form for about 400,000 years.

Before that, however, the distribution of radioactivity within the rock appears to show that the Jilin meteorite had been part of a larger interplanetary body, perhaps as much as ten metres in diameter, but situated within about a metre of its surface. The measurements also suggest that the Jilin meteorite had existed in that form for the best part of 10 million years.

The interest of this series of difficult measurements is that it illustrates the detailed history of an interplanetary body may be reconstructed from more or less routine measurements of the distribution of radioactive materials, which should be a more detailed understanding of the natural history of interplanetary meteoritic material.

Source: *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* (January, vol. 57, p. 101), 1982.

© Nature-Times News Service, 1982.

It was so disappointing that I had no more in politics.

Local Radio on Education Study The Fellowship (Union Road, Weybridge).

BLAST AT Three shops of Newton A were badly damaged by a fire started by a fire was cordoned off.

MANY HELD IN RESEARCH BASE CLASH

A number of people were arrested last night after a demonstration at an animal research laboratory at Stock near Chelmsford, Essex.

Masked protesters armed with crowbars broke into the laboratory while sympathizers waved placards and chanted slogans outside. Six badges taken from the premises were understood to have been recovered and returned by police.

The trouble started after about 100 people belonging to anti-vivisection groups gathered outside the laboratory, owned by Life Science Research, a private firm, a spokesman for whom said: "There is no way our tests are cruel to animals."

Overseas selling prices Australia \$2.00; Belgium \$2.00; Canada \$2.00; Denmark \$2.00; France \$2.00; Germany \$2.00; Greece \$2.00; Ireland \$2.00; Italy \$2.00; Japan \$2.00; Korea \$2.00; Luxembourg \$2.00; Netherlands \$2.00; Norway \$2.00; Portugal \$2.00; Spain \$2.00; Sweden \$2.00; Switzerland \$2.00; Taiwan \$2.00; Thailand \$2.00; United Kingdom \$2.00; United States \$2.00; West Germany \$2.00; Yugoslavia \$2.00.

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The public rape victim in a previous case may lead to a police procedure of making unnecessary. General, QC. But he is Sexual Offences Act, designed to ensure examination of the victim's clothing in an article in February 1981.

It may reaction will be a comm. become clear. He said, "I am not a politician. I am a public figure."

Local 'fails' political

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National Savings

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Havers may act if rape outcry is not heeded

The public outcry about rape victims being subjected to humiliating cross-examination in court on their previous sexual experiences may lead to changes in police procedures and in the attitude of judges which would make new legislation unnecessary, Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, said yesterday.

But he agreed that the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, 1976, which was designed to protect women from unnecessary cross-examination, was not always strictly observed in court, as an article in *The Times* on February 10 had pointed out.

"It may be that the reaction will be sufficient, that common sense will become clear and that this Act will be applied in the way that Parliament intended it to be," he said. "But if it is not, then of course we shall have to consider legislation."

Sir Michael, interviewed by Mr Brian Walden on the Independent Television programme *Weekend World*, was asked whether, where medical evidence showed that violence had been used, the burden of proof should be shifted on to the male defendant to show that the woman had consented.

Sir Michael replied that that would involve radical, fundamental change, but did not rule it out.

"A programme like this and a public outcry like this is very valuable because it

By George Clark

makes all of us who have to deal with the law concentrate and become aware of the problems. The basic problem is that we must encourage women to come forward so that the rapists are convicted."

Asked if the Government would legislate to insist on automatic jail sentences for all convicted rapists, the Attorney General said: "We shall have to consider this very carefully. I think, really, what has been resolved by what the Lord Chief Justice has said."

"He has given a directive to all judges that except in wholly exceptional cases a rapist must go to prison at once. But if we have an automatic sentence I believe it will lead in a number of cases of minor rape... to juries finding a defendant not guilty."

He had in mind a case where a man persisted with a woman who had perhaps "gone off him" after a long relationship. If a jury knew there was a mandatory jail sentence they would find him not guilty, Sir Michael did not want to risk that happening because the jury did not want the man jailed automatically.

What action he might take on legislation would depend to some extent on what changes were brought in by the police and by the judges. He wanted to see complainants sympathetically treated

by the police, and examined, if possible, in hospital and not at the police station, by a woman doctor, if available.

The programme included reconstructed scenes from trials, based on reports compiled by Zeussanna Adler, who wrote *The Times* article last week. "I am horrified by what I have seen in the programme today and by the article in *The Times* last week," Sir Michael said.

He was pressed to give his opinion about judges who had turned a blind eye to the 1976 Act. "The judges are just like any other human beings," he replied. "Some will be seeing this programme, they read the newspapers, they react to the climate of public opinion just like anyone else."

"I would suspect that a lot of them, when they are faced with the problem, are going to look at it in a new light in the future. If they do not, there is of course the power to legislate to restrict cross-examination even more. But in my opinion it is very tight at this moment."

The programme included the results of a poll taken by Opinion Research, using a sample of more than 1,000 women between the ages of 16 and 50. They were asked if they felt well enough protected by the law against rapists. Only 14 per cent replied "yes", and 79 per cent replied "no", while 7 per cent were unsure.



Dawn patrol: Group leaders striding out on Dartmoor on a course to prepare them for the Ten Tors expedition.

Learning to brave the elements

Teams of young people training for this year's testing Dartmoor Ten Tors expedition are likely to be better prepared than last April, when one group was lost for more than two days in a sudden blizzard (Craig Seton writes).

Over the weekend the Dartmoor Rescue Group held a special course for the managers of the fifty or so teams which will soon begin training for the May expedition organized every year for young people from schools, colleges, the Services and youth clubs. They walk different

distances, depending on their age and experience.

Last year's snowstorm caused chaos among the groups training for the expedition on Dartmoor and a big rescue operation had to be launched when air cadets were missing. They were found, suffering from exposure, and there was later criticism that some of the teams were ill prepared for the conditions that Dartmoor can suddenly produce.

This weekend's "walking confer-

ence" was designed to ensure that such a dangerous situation does not arise again. Mr William Ames, the rescue group's secretary, said the team managers were taken out over the moor so that they could appreciate the difficulties that would be faced by young people who would probably be carrying heavy packs and facing bad weather for the first time. The managers were also told about the absolute necessity for their teams to wear the right clothing and carry the right equipment.

Local radio 'fails on politics'

By Kenneth Gosling

Local radio is given low marks for its coverage of political affairs in a report prepared for the Independent Broadcasting Authority under its fellowship scheme.

Dr Anthony Wright, a lecturer at Birmingham University, says: "In the mainstream of local radio, as one education producer remarked, it is difficult to believe that people are actually learning anything very much about politics."

"Something must rub off from news items, interviews, and phone-ins, insofar as listeners encounter these, but it is doubtful if much real political education is taking place."

Dr Wright says local radio, while claiming to encompass, represent and integrate an entire local population, is prone to lock itself into a bland and breezy consensual style that carries with it a distaste for, and neglect of, local conflicts and disagreements, exemplified by its neglect of local politics. But that, he says, is a profoundly mistaken view of what a community is.

The modern local government system and the issues surrounding it are complex enough to require considerable expertise in unravelling them; yet only a handful of stations have a reporter or producer specializing in covering the local political system.

The absence of such expertise, Dr Wright adds, has seriously affected both the quantity and quality of political broadcasting in local radio. "It is one important reason why local radio has failed to have the impact on local democracy that was promised in its foundation documents."

It was surprising and disappointing that local BBC stations had not been adventurous in political broadcasting.

Local Radio and Local Democracy: A Study in Political Education by Anthony Wright (The Fellowship Officer, IBA, 70 Brompton Road, London SW3 1BX; free).

EEC talks unlikely to bridge price gap

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

On the eve of the resumption of the EEC farm price talks in Brussels, Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, said yesterday that the common agricultural policy (CAP) should not be blamed for all food price increases.

There was a common misconception that there was a direct relationship between price increases decided as part of the CAP and the overall increase in the price of food, he said. It was important to recognize that the CAP price fixing was but one ingredient.

"Increases in world prices of such foodstuffs as vegetable oils, coffee, tea and tropical fruits, and fluctuations in commodity prices such as eggs, fruits, vegetables and many meats arise not from CAP price fixing but by forces of supply and demand, including, of course, the weather," he said.

Wage increases for retailers and food processors, energy and other costs, also had an important impact on prices.

The talks are unlikely to make more than minimal progress towards bridging the gap between the 9 per cent average increase recommended by the European Commission and the 16 per cent being requested by the Association of European Farmers' Unions (COPA).

Most agriculture ministers, including Mr Walker, want farmers to get as much as possible, but neither they nor their Cabinet colleagues can afford to ignore the protests of about 80 per cent of the total of the food industry and of

consumer groups who are opposed to any rises.

Another hindrance to progress is the hiatus caused by the general election in Ireland. Moreover, if agreement were to be reached in principle, the British Government has said it will veto any increases until the issue of its budget contributions has been settled.

One of the most contentious issues is likely to be the projected increase in butter prices, together with a proposed reduction in the special subsidy to British consumers.

Relationships within the Community have not been helped by the latest wrangle between Britain and France over allegedly illegal government subsidies to French farmers.

At the weekend the Ministry of Agriculture took the unusual step of issuing an unsigned statement rejecting in highly undiplomatic language a statement made by the French agricultural attaché in London.

"We are all amused at the pathetic attempt of an official of the French Embassy to suggest that the national aids poured into French agriculture by the French Government are in any way in line with those provided in Britain," it said.

"Everybody in Europe knows that the French Government's injection into the French agricultural bank, Credit Agricole, to subsidize interest rates to French farmers is now equal to about 80 per cent of the total British agriculture budget."

400% bus fares rise forecast

By David Walker

Bus fares in South Yorkshire are to rise by 400 per cent or more as the county council becomes the latest local authority to heed the Law Lords' judgment condemning the Greater London Council's cheap fares scheme.

Labour members of the council, which covers the Sheffield to Doncaster area, are likely when they meet this evening to accept legal advice and plan a large fares rise. They will also promise a campaign of public agitation in the hope of persuading the Government to change the law to legalize substantial council subsidies for public transport.

Since the Law Lords' verdict, which appeared to place strict limits on the amount of subsidy for fares from the rates, West Midlands County Council has abandoned cheap fares, and Merseyside County Council has jettisoned plans for a fares cut.

South Yorkshire's councillors have known for weeks of strong legal advice against their 10-year-old policy of keeping fares to a minimum. But their decision to accept it is linked with a weekend meeting between councillors and members of the Labour Shadow Cabinet attending a party conference in Sheffield. The MPs promised that a future Labour government would reform subsidy arrangements, but Mr Gerald Kaufman, Labour spokesman on the environment, said that meanwhile Labour leaders could not support breaking the law on the issue.

Bus fares in the Sheffield, Rotherham, Barnsley and Doncaster areas have scarcely risen since the mid-1970s. The distance of about 16 miles from Barnsley to Sheffield can be travelled by bus for 26p. Long rides within Sheffield cost only 4p.

In the wake of the GLC case and the successful challenge in the High Court last year levied by the West Midlands council, lawyers have urged South Yorkshire council at least to show willing in making a fares increase.

Sick pay scheme 'will hit the poor'

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

Government plans to make employers take over responsibility for paying sickness benefit will worsen the position of those low paid workers who are already being dismissed for being sick, it is claimed today.

The warning is given in a report by the Greater London Citizens' Advice Bureaux Service after a survey of employees seeking help because of dismissals connected with ill health.

More than 80 per cent of the people questioned had been dismissed when they sought advice from bureaux. The employer had specifically stated sickness as the reason in nearly three quarters of the cases, but one in four had been off ill for three days or less when they were dismissed and most had taken less than a week's sick leave the previous year.

Most of the people surveyed were low paid: 49 per cent earned less than £61 a week and 92 per cent less than £81. Most were manual workers and nearly 40 per cent were from ethnic minorities. Only 17 per cent belonged to trade unions.

Most of the employers were found to be either ignorant of current legislation or ignoring it. Nearly half the dismissed employees had not been given either notice or pay in lieu, and 60 per cent had no written contract of employment or statement of their working terms and conditions.

Who Pays Sick Pay? (Greater London Citizens' Advice Bureaux Service, 31 Wellington Street, London, WC2E 7QH; free).

BLAST AT SHOPS

Three shops in the centre of Newton Abbot, Devon, were badly damaged by a gas explosion yesterday. No one was injured. The explosion started a fire and the area was cordoned off.

A guide to French flair

By a Staff Reporter

The French section of this year's *Good Hotel Guide*, which is published today, has more entries than those for England and Wales combined. "A result in part of the favourable exchange rate, in part an indication of a shift in where people are taking their holidays, and in part a tribute to the flair shown by so many French hoteliers," Mr Hilary Rubinstein, the editor, writes.

The guide is the fifth and has nearly 700 entries, more than double the first year's total of 305 and 30 per cent more than last year's. Northern Ireland, Finland, Hungary and Luxembourg are represented for the first time.

Noting that Britain's hotels

are still the most expensive in Europe, though no longer the most expensive in the world, Mr Rubinstein attacks the British "prejudice" against being in service, the cost of which is perhaps the most obvious reason for this antipathy," he says, "largely unknown in France, Italy, Spain or Portugal, which accounts for the anomaly that, at a time of exceptional unemployment, many hotels in Britain still have staffing problems."

The guide has an appendix written by the proprietor of an hotel in Devon on the pitfalls of opening a hotel without experience.

THE SINGLE HOMELESS WORSE OFF

Single homeless people face a particularly third-class treatment from a Government acting by stealth, Mr Andrew Bennett, Labour MP for Stockport, North, said on Saturday.

He told the general meeting of Char, the campaign for single homeless people, that weekly benefit to those people had been cut by £5.20, or 22 per cent, on top of an across-the-board cut equivalent to three weeks' money for all claimants of unemployment and social security benefits.

The meeting at Leeds University also heard details of alleged discrimination against single homeless claimants in Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle, Bristol, Birmingham, Swansea and London.

Char today publishes a practical guide.

Supplementary Benefits for Single Homeless People, Char, 27 John Adam Street, London, WC2E 7EJ plus 30p p&p.

DISPUTE AT REFINERY IS SETTLED

Fifteen hundred workers at Shell's Stanlow oil refinery, at Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, voted yesterday to accept the company's offer of an 8 per cent local allowance increase. Shell, which had been prompted to begin shutting down the refinery because of sanctions imposed by men, began a return to full operations.

The company has lifted the suspension order on the employees and has guaranteed that no disciplinary action will be taken. The Stanlow workers were the only group at Shell's four refineries not to accept the company's offer.

The 800 employees of the Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board will be recommended at mass meetings today to accept a peace formula worked out between management and unions and call off their 12-day-old strike over the suspension of four colleagues.

Advanced electrical test for BL Cars.

Cars built by BL now pass through a more comprehensive inspection process than ever.

And one of the most advanced checking methods is a unique Vehicle Electrical Testing System developed jointly by BL and Ferrari.

The computer-controlled VETS equipment, as it is called, is now installed in each of BL's car assembly plants.

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minutes it can check the most complex electrical system - carrying out up to 150 individual tests and giving an instant read-out of results on monitor screens as well as a printed record.

The system is so versatile that testing programmes are tailor-made for specific model ranges and derivatives.

BL Fighting back

Alert over paraquat in river

Water supplies to 150 families were cut off yesterday after paraquat weedkiller contaminated a river and a stream. Police set up special patrols to guard the stream, at Morley, West Yorkshire, and warned thousands of people to keep away.

The paraquat escaped from storage drums after an explosion at a transport depot. The chemical mixed with water from firemen's hoses and poured into the stream. It also seeped into the River Calder, which runs through Morley, Wakefield and Castleford.

The Yorkshire Water Authority said tests had shown there was no danger to domestic water supplies, but as a precaution the families would remain disconnected for the time being.

A West Yorkshire police spokesman said: "It is vital that people stay away from this river. The chemical is highly toxic and can easily kill. It will be at least three days before the danger passes."

New route for A27 section

The new route for the eight-mile section of the A27 trunk road between Havant, Hampshire, and Chichester, West Sussex, has been announced after a public inquiry that lasted several weeks.

The road will pass north of the excavated Roman palace at Fishbourne, near Chichester, and join the Chichester by-pass at its western end.

Announcing the new route, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, said it would serve as a by-pass for several communities along the existing section of the A27 between Havant and Chichester.

Ilkerton man backed

The National Executive Committee of the Labour Party has endorsed Councillor David Bookbinder as prospective parliamentary candidate for Ilkerton, Derbyshire. Mr Bookbinder, the leader of Derbyshire County Council, was adopted by the constituency Labour Party in preference to the sitting member, Mr Raymond Fletcher, MP.

A TIMES EXCLUSIVE

From Victoria Wine, a case of excellent 1978 Claret for only £33.

A remarkable offer from Victoria Wine available to 1000 Times readers.

Twelve bottles of Château Haut Sociondo, a fine chateau-bottled claret from the Côtes de Blaye.

David Bedford, Master of Wine for Victoria Wine describes it as "A very good, inexpensive claret with a good, deep colour and a rich, fruity nose. Ready for drinking now but can be laid down for a little longer if desired."

The wine will be delivered to your nearest Victoria Wine shop within about 14 days of receipt of your coupon and remittance, where applicable.

However, in the interests of fairness and exclusivity, the offer is limited to one case per person.

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I understand that if within 30 days I am dissatisfied for any reason with the quality of the wine I may return it and £2.75 per bottle will be re-funded.

NAME _____ (I am over 18)

ADDRESS _____

TEL _____

SIGNATURE _____

This offer closes at the end of February 1982.

Warsaw keeps protest alive with candles

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Feb 14

Lights flickered briefly and candles of protest shone from Warsaw windows last night by the city's first violent street demonstrations in the Polish capital to mark two months of martial law.

Reports from Gdansk today said that police and soldiers had cordoned off the memorial to shipyard workers killed in 1970 in case it again became a rallying point for demonstrators, but it is still unclear whether there were any clashes last night.

Solidarity leaflets in the capital had called for passive demonstrations, industrial go-ins, wearing of black armbands, a symbolic black-out between 9 pm and 9.15 pm. In fact, this advice was only partially followed: in Nowy Swiat, a central thoroughfare, about one in five lights were switched off in apartment blocks.

The lukewarm response to the underground appeals may well have been influenced by a massive show of strength on Thursday and Friday nights when columns of armoured vehicles drove to and fro in the capital during the rush hour.

Certainly the object in Gdansk appears to have been, as one Solidarity sympathizer put it, "preemptive intimidation." Women and children had planned to march through the streets but it is uncertain whether they managed to go ahead with their plans in the face of a particularly strong military presence.

"There was a soldier in front of every shopfront," said on traveller who arrived in the capital yesterday. All telephones links with Gdansk are cut.

Two unconfirmed reports of passive protests in Wroclaw and Lodz have reached the capital, but again the police and Army, though much in evidence, appear to have been under strict instruction not to over-react.

Communist sources say that there has been considerable criticism in Gdansk about the way that the police handled a demonstration in the port two weeks ago, a demonstration which turned into a riot partly because of the excessive toughness of the riot police.

There is still some mystery about the township of Swidnik, the capital's suburb, where, according to initial reports from the official PAP news agency, there was substantial unrest. Curfew had been imposed from 7 pm, the highest in the country, and the telephone network cut off. A subsequent message from PAP then told editors to ignore the report but no explanation was offered.

Swidnik helicopter factory was the scene of a demonstration in the first few days after the imposition of martial law on December 13, with soldiers, according to one unconfirmed report, firing blanks over the heads of the crowd.

Summary trials in both military and civil courts have been continuing. The latest verdict, however, is not for organising strikes but for espionage, thus fitting into the general propaganda thrust of linking the Central Intelligence Agency with the Polish crisis.

Mr Bogdan Walewski, a former employee of the Polish Foreign Ministry, was sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment and 10 years' deprivation of civil liberty — making an early amnesty impossible — for revealing the names of Polish agents to the CIA.

The prosecution had demanded the death sentence. Mr Walewski had previously worked in the United States personnel department, the Polish Embassy in Moscow and the Polish Foreign Ministry's protocol section.

□ Moscow: Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Soviet Prime Minister, was today quoted as saying that the Soviet Union had a vital interest in the reestablishment of normal life in Poland and was giving its ally considerable economic aid (Reuters Reports). In an interview with a Japanese newspaper, released here by Tass, Mr Tikhonov gave the Kremlin's unambiguous backing to the imposition of martial law in Poland.

But he gave no clear indication of how far Moscow was prepared to go in shoring up the Polish economy and helping Warsaw pay its debts to the West.

Western defence

US tells allies to pay fair share

Munich, Feb 14.—Mr Caspar Weinberger, the United States Secretary, called on Western Europe yesterday to contribute more to the defence of the Western alliance, and to curb trade with the Soviet block.

His remarks were followed today by a call from General Bernard Roberts, Nato's Supreme Commander, in Europe, to the allies to increase their defence spending from 3 per cent to 4 per cent a year in real terms.

Both men were addressing a meeting of 150 Western military and political officials, including Dr Josef Luns, the Nato Secretary-General.

Mr Weinberger warned them that latent isolationism could be revived in the United States — which would be "a great tragedy" — if West Europeans did not assume what he called a fair share of rising defence costs.

Ordinary Americans might ask whether protection for their allies was necessary or sensible if there were a lack of response from Europe, said Mr Weinberger who is on his way home from a Middle East tour, this could lead to great difficulties in Congress.

He said the annual 3 per cent target increase in defence spending would not be very useful if it went solely on pay rises for soldiers and not on raising the alliance's firepower.



Mr Weinberger: Threat of isolationism.

General Rogers said he wanted a 4 per cent increase to counter what he called the "worrying weakness" of the West against Soviet military might. Nato's conventional forces must be strengthened, he said.

On trade, Mr Weinberger reinforced American opposition to a proposed pipeline bringing Soviet gas to Western Europe, and called for what he called a return to discipline in trade with the Soviet block, which

There were no objections to trade as such, but Soviet block military strength should not be further improved by Western technological expertise.

Families of cooking oil victims stage sit-in

From Our Correspondent Madrid, Feb 14

Some 800 relatives of people who were killed or disabled by adulterated cooking oil today continued their sit-in which began last Friday in 20 churches in Madrid and towns near by. They are demanding improved medical care, speedier payment of special compensation and fuller information about the nature of the illness.

With the death toll from the "toxic syndrome", now standing at 262, and with probably permanent lesions noted in many of the 17,000 who were made sick, the protesters are demanding a meeting with Señor Manuel Nunez Perez, the Minister of Health and Consumer Affairs.

They intend to present a petition to him seeking authorization of abortion for pregnant women suffering from the illness. Abortion is outlawed in Spain.

Nine months after the first case of the toxic syndrome was recorded at Torrejon, near Madrid, no antidote for the poison has been found.

At a news conference called here yesterday in reaction to the sit-in representatives of the Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs said that so far 800 pesetas (£4.4m) have been paid out in special compensations.

Air-sea search for 15 crew called off

The Atlantic air and sea search for 15 missing seamen has been called off, Falmouth coastguards said, because there was no hope of finding any further survivors from the Greek vessel Victory (the Press Association reports).

Seventeen men who had been clinging to the ship's stern were winched to safety on Saturday by a Lynx helicopter although one man was later found to be dead.

Of the rest of the 32-man crew, all but two had taken to a lifeboat. A Nimrod search aircraft sighted the craft empty and badly damaged, according to a coast-guard spokesman who also said that the other two men gave up clinging to the wreck of the Victory late on Friday night when it developed a 45-degree list. "It is impossible for anyone to survive in the sea for more than six hours in these temperatures", he said.

□ The final rescue of 16 seamen from the Victory will go into archives as a classic example of the multinational air-sea rescue services based in Britain and extending well into the Western Approaches of the Atlantic, one of the most dangerous sea areas in the world (John Chatteris writes).

British, American, Dutch and Belgian ships and aircraft were involved in the operation which was all controlled by the Royal Air Force Southern Rescue Coordination Centre at Plymouth.

The key to the action was the early presence overhead of RAF Nimrod long-range aircraft whose primary role is to spot potential enemy ships. The Nimrods were able to pinpoint the scene of the impending disaster and stayed overhead night and day to guide other rescue ships and aircraft to the area.

There was particular pride yesterday at the United States Air Force base at Woodbridge in Suffolk that at least one of their H135 helicopters known as "Super Jolly Green Giants" of the 67th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron had been able to make an important contribution to a civilian rescue around British shores.

The big helicopters are the only aircraft of their kind in the West capable of in-flight refuelling and with a normal operational radius of 600 miles. They have seldom been able to contribute to rescue actions around Britain because of the time it takes to "prepare them for a 'scramble'" — more than an hour compared with about 10 minutes for an RAF or Royal Navy rescue helicopter.

But on this occasion it was a Green Giant from Woodbridge that first reached the Victory, 800 miles west of Land's End. With some exceptional feats of airman-ship its crew managed to get a line across from the stern section of the stricken tanker to another ship.

The presence of two Lynx aircraft from Dutch frigates exercising in the area was another example of the value to air-sea rescue of NATO ships. Helicopters carry "somewhere around"

Warning on democracy by Ecevit

From Robert Schull Amsterdam, Feb 14

The Western community should refuse to tolerate Turkey's "second-rate democracy", Mr Bulent Ecevit, the former Turkish Prime Minister, said in an interview from Istanbul with Dutch television, broadcast at the weekend.

Mr Ecevit was recently released after two months in prison for defying the military regime's ban on public statements by former politicians.

Asked if he was afraid he would have to go to prison again after the interview Mr Ecevit, speaking in English, said: "I don't know, but if one wants to live in a free society, one must be prepared to contribute to the establishment or reestablishment of democracy in one's country then one should take some risks. After all, freedom and democracy are worth taking some risks for."

He was outspoken on the attitude Nato and EEC countries should take on military rule in his country.

"I should like to express my opinion in terms of the principle. If Turkey is a member of the community of the democratic nations of the West as we are, then the same criteria, the same standards of democracy should be applied to Turkey as to any other Western democratic society."

In my view, the true friends of Turkey are those who apply the same democratic criteria and who object to the violation of freedom and human rights in Turkey as they would in their own countries.

"I believe that those who are content with second rate democracy for Turkey so long as Turkey serves the security interests of the West may not be as real friends of Turkey as the others."

Mr Ecevit showed little faith in the type of democracy promised by the country's military rulers, within the framework of a new constitution to be introduced in 1984.

Ceausescu pleads for détente

From Dessá Trevisan Bucharest Feb 14

President Ceausescu of Romania has told Mr Alexander Haig that sanctions against Poland are counter-productive. During four and a half hours of talks there yesterday he urged the continuation of the East-West dialogue in general and the Helsinki process in particular in order to ease tension.

Mr Haig, who visited Bucharest on the last leg of his European tour, told a press conference here that there were differences between the two sides over the issue of martial law in Poland, but added that there was agreement and that it was important to talk and seek ways of reducing tension.

The Romanians have been particularly worried about the impasse in the Madrid review conference and the tough United States stand there. Mr Haig said that to continue business as usual while Poland was in a state of siege would be a mockery of the Helsinki Accords.

But, he added, it was President Reagan's view that it was "extremely important to talk to East European nations which are willing to talk and seek ways of reducing it in a constructive dialogue."

He singled out Romania for pursuing a relatively independent policy and "ever-mindful of its geography" in asserting its independence. This was taken as an indication that Washington accepted Romania on its merits and as a demonstration of American support for Romania's specific international policy.

At a time when Romania is facing considerable financial problems and a huge debt which it is hoping to have rescheduled, the Haig visit is regarded as especially important. Mr Haig said that the question of debts would not be discussed at this level, the talks had created a good climate

On March 21st, the fare increases made necessary as a result of the Court of Appeal and Law Lords' ruling on the "Fares Fair" Policy will be implemented on all London Transport.

Fares will go up. London has been told that the law requires its London Transport system to be run as far as practicable on business principles and on its own resources.

Most other major cities throughout the world have decided that subsidised public transport is the only way to run a modern city efficiently.

In Paris, for example, the French Government has invested heavily and there, the traveller pays for less than half of the cost.

London Transport's subsidy, after the Court of Appeal and the Law Lords' ruling, will — after March 21st — be around 12% of its costs.

The cost of Fares Fair to the London ratepayer was almost doubled by the penalties imposed by the Government withholding block grant.

Is this fair?

Should London Transport be run "as far as practicable" as a business? Should the results — higher fares — be passed on to passengers, many of whom are people who can only afford public transport?

Or should London Transport be considered as a social service, the same way that we happily look upon hospitals, schools and other public activities, with much of the cost borne by ratepayers and taxpayers?

In London, public transport has become a political "football". It isn't in Europe, so why should it be here? Public transport should be a social issue, vitally important to our entire society, whatever the income, whatever the job, whatever the function or standing.

So let's look at the entire argument. No party politics. No legal quibbles. Just facts of life in London, in 1982.

If you're one of the 92 MPs for Greater London, tell him what you think about the facts we put before you. Ask him what he's going to do about it. And tell him to be quick. Remember, fares go up on March 21st!

ALL CHANGE?

After March 21st, you'll notice immediate changes all over London. Bus and tube fares will increase by nearly 100% immediately.

Closure notices may appear at a number of less economic and probably more remote tube stations. Certain areas may lose bus services altogether. And you'll find there are fewer trains, and buses operating at a lesser frequency all round.

Does this seem fair to you?

21 MARCH

London Transport

100% Increases

from Westminster

THE WORLD PUBLIC TRANSPORT SUBSIDY LEAGUE TABLE.

"Business" or subsidised social service? How does London measure up to other cities? Here are just some examples of proportions of costs subsidised, excluding depreciation and renewal costs.

NEW YORK	72%
MILAN	71%
BRUSSELS	70%
BERLIN	61%
PARIS	56%
LONDON (With Fares Fair Policy)	46%

After the Court of Appeal and Law Lords' ruling, as of March 21st, London Transport's subsidy will be reduced to about 12% of its costs.

Do you think this is fair?

THE ROADS AHEAD

If cheaper fares got more people on to public transport — which they did — then expect some bad news on the roads after March 21st. When it becomes more economic to use their car, then people will do so, adding to traffic jams, parking problems and accidents.

And with fewer people on the buses and tubes, they'll become "uneconomic" again, which will send fares up yet again.

A vicious circle with Londoners in the middle.

Does this make sense to you?

CALL FOR AN ENQUIRY — NOW!

The Fares Fair Policy had a purpose. Lower fares gave better access to Londoners. It increased the efficiency of London's public transport system by increasing use of available services, allowing simpler fares, greater integration of the tube and bus services with BR; and allowed more automatic ticket issuing and prepayment of tickets.

To achieve the Fares Fair objectives, all the fares must be seen to be fair. And the burden on ratepayers must be fair.

But the Government will penalise the GLC financially if it tries to help London Transport by, for example, keeping fares low.

If you feel that the lower fares were fair; if you feel London should have the right to decide how it funds London Transport without being penalised by Government then ask your MP to get the law changed.

Get the issues debated fully. Have the debate carried to Parliament before March 21st. You can do it by demanding that your MP acts now. Contact him direct or use the coupon. But do it now. And help keep London Transport's fares, fair.



Missing persons inquiry blames security forces

From Alan McGregor, Geneva, Feb 14

Slow but sure progress in determining the fate of "disappeared persons" in a score of countries is indicated in the 1981 report of the investigating group set up two years ago by the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

Most of the missing were abducted by security forces in state-inspired terror campaigns against political opponents.

During the year the group headed by Lord Colville, British delegate to the commission, received information on 2,100 people in 22 countries. Six governments did not reply to communications. Guinea, Indonesia, Iran, Lesotho, Uganda and Zaire. Otherwise the group has established direct contact, in some cases steadily yielding information.

Two members visited Mexico last month, the first time a country under such scrutiny has opened its doors. Chile, by contrast, is refusing to cooperate, charging that the group's procedures are discriminatory. Both El Salvador and Guatemala are replying to inquiries.

Argentina is in a category by itself because of the sheer numbers who disappeared after the 1976 military coup

— no fewer than 5,000 to 6,000, although Argentine human rights bodies put the total five or six times higher. But last year only eight cases were notified to the Government and each has since been officially explained.

The group is managing to trace some of the children who were either abducted with their parents in Argentina or born in prison. It has the names of 84. Last year five others were traced and put in touch with relatives. The group often has great difficulty extracting minimal information, but with wider recognition of its humanitarian and non-political purpose, it is finding that the trickle may become a stream in response to better informed questions.

Mr Theo van Boven, director of the United Nations Human Rights Division, whose services have been dispensed with by Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the new Secretary-General, was instrumental in the group's creation and has put all his weight behind it.

His departure is unlikely to mean a change of emphasis as his deputy, a Ghanaian, was formerly his country's delegate in the Human Rights Commission and also the group's first chairman.

Tell your MP to act NOW!

TO: THE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR
HOUSE OF COMMONS, WESTMINSTER, LONDON SW1A 0AA.

I call on the Government to take immediate action to enable the GLC to maintain its present low fares policy without any reduction in services.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

GLC Working for London

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Council to succeed Ayatollah

New York. — President Seyyed Khomeini of Iran said in an interview that a council of three to five members would eventually succeed Ayatollah Khomeini. He also hinted that Iran was willing to buy arms from the Soviet Union.

In an interview with *Nesweek*, he also said that Iran expected to win its war with Iraq very soon; that its vast economic problems were a result of the war; and that executions carried out under the Shah could not be compared with executions under the Islamic republic.

The taking of American hostages, he claimed, had provided Iran with more gains than losses.

Saying his country had been "born again," President Khomeini, a 42-year-old Muslim, admitted that the Islamic society envisioned by Ayatollah Khomeini and his followers did not yet exist.

Ayatollah Khomeini has cancelled all his appointments for the next two weeks, Tehran radio reported. — AP.

Cairo softens Moscow line

Cairo. — Egypt is prepared to restore ambassador-level communications with Moscow, the Kremlin promises its envoys will not violate diplomatic norms, Mr Kamal Hassan Ali, the Foreign Minister, said.

Last September, a month before his assassination, President Anwar Sadat expelled the Soviet ambassador, six Soviet diplomats and the last 1,000 Soviet experts in Egypt, accusing Moscow of plotting against him.

Lebanon bomb kills four

Beirut. — A car bomb exploded outside a Palestinian refugee camp in Sidon, south Lebanon, killing at least four people and wounding 15, Lebanese newspapers said.

The dead included a Palestinian bomb disposal expert who was working on the device when it exploded. He had pushed the car containing the bomb away from the camp and warned people to keep clear.

Obote invites exiles home

President Milton Obote of Uganda, who has appealed to Ugandans in exile — especially the thousands who fled to neighbouring Zaire and the southern Sudan — to return home. He assured tribal elders that the exiles could return without fear of attacks from other tribes.

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Ex-minister held in Bangladesh

Dacca. — Police have arrested Mr Abul Kashem, the former Bangladesh Youth Development Minister, who was among ministers dropped from the Cabinet on Thursday.

He is accused of sheltering a man wanted for killing at least seven people. The suspect was arrested by detectives who circled the former minister's house for four hours before he surrendered.

Nato to test air and land forces

Brussels. — Eight Nato nations are to stage month-long exercises in Norway to test a mobile land and air force, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe said.

The exercise will involve some 14,000 troops from February 24 to March 24. Canada, the United States, West Germany, Norway, Britain, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Italy will take part.

Missionary shot

Washington. — Brother James Arnold Miller of the La Salle Order, an American Roman Catholic missionary, has been shot in Guatemala, the State Department said. The motive was not yet known.

Korea war games

Seoul. — The United States and South Korea have begun a joint military exercise involving 157,000 troops.

CORRECTION

A report on December 29 stated that 1.5 million communists had recently been released from prison in Indonesia. The correct figure is nearer 100,000.

Pope pleads for Muslim links

From Godfrey Morrison
Lagos, Feb 14

The Pope today asked for greater cooperation between Muslims and Christians after an estimated 500,000 people turned out to greet him in Kaduna, the heart of Nigeria's predominantly Muslim north.

On the third day of his African pilgrimage at an open air Mass, sung in Hausa and punctuated by African drumming instead of the more familiar ringing of bells. The Pope ordained 30 Nigerian priests from all parts of this huge nation of 83 million people.

It is only nine months since the attempt on his life but despite a punishing schedule and temperatures in the nineties the Pope appears relaxed and speaks with that firm and deep voice which has become so familiar around the world.

At the three Masses since he arrived here on Friday the Pope has spoken in English, lingua franca of this ethnically diverse nation. Today's Mass at Kaduna was briefly interrupted by loud cheering and applause when the Pope ended his sermon with the Hausa words: "Na gode Allah" (Thanks be to God).

During the offertory the Nigerian faithful brought to the altar yams, rolls of brightly coloured African cloth, fruits, and pots of honey, but despite the exotic surroundings the fate of his fellow Poles is probably never far from the Pope's thoughts. Among the leaders welcoming him at Kaduna were some that read simply "solidaritas" and on Tuesday he is due to meet members of the Polish community here in Lagos.

Yesterday he faced the biggest crowds of his visit when he went to Enugu and Onitsha in eastern Nigeria, home of the Ibo people and of about three-quarters of the country's five million Roman Catholics.

Members of the papal entourage estimated that almost a million people gathered to see the Pope when he celebrated Mass at a huge open space of more than a square mile in Enugu which had been bulldozed out of the virgin bush a few days earlier.

A dominant theme of the Pope's sermons and speeches has been similar to that of his first African visit two

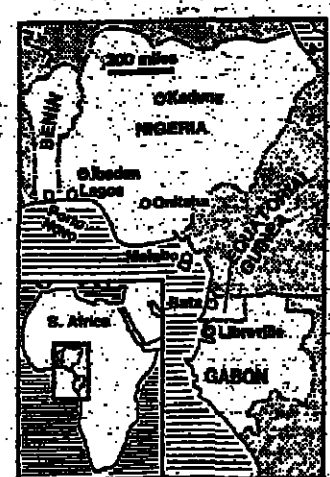


Branches of Christianity: Young people of Onitsha making sure of a good vantage point during the Pope's visit.

years ago. He is telling the Africans, in effect: "Be yourselves, but..."

When he met President Shehu Shagari and other Nigerian leaders he told them that "it is my conviction that all Africa, when allowed to

take charge of its own affairs, without being subjected to interference and pressure from any outside powers or groups, will not only stand the rest of the world by its achievements, but will be able to share its



wisdom, its sense of life, its reverence for God with other continents and nations."

Similarly in Onitsha he went out of his way to praise the importance which Africans accord to their families. "You have strong family ties. Children are regarded as a blessing and are desired as the crown of marriage. The extended family system provides a loving human environment for the rearing of orphans. The old and the poor." He then went on to condemn polygamy, divorce, contraception and abortion.

Addressing young people the Pope asked them to identify the ills of Nigerian society and, without mincing words, he said these included "bribery, corruption, the embezzlement of public or company funds, extravagance and unproductive spending, neglect of the poor and the friendless, the parade of wealth, nepotism, tribalism, political antagonism, denial of the rights of the poor, abortion, contraception, and other evils which ravage other countries."

When he spoke to Muslim religious leaders today the Pope said he had come to Nigeria to visit his fellow Catholics "but my journey would be incomplete without this meeting."

He said there were several areas where there could be greater cooperation between Christians and Muslims, including the promotion of "more honesty and discipline in our public life, greater courage and wisdom in politics, the elimination of political antagonisms, and the removal of discrimination because of a person's race, colour, ethnic origin, religion or sex."

Congress to query policy on Salvador

From Nicholas Hirst
Washington, Feb 14

Sharp questioning is expected as Congress returns this week on exactly what President Reagan's commitments are in Central America after the recall this weekend of a high-ranking American officer from El Salvador.

In an incident that is causing further problems for the Administration's plans to counter left-wing influence in the region, Lieutenant Colonel Harry Melander is to return to the United States this week. He was filmed by American television carrying an M16 automatic rifle with a group of four other American soldiers in El Salvador, in a breach of State Department regulations.

The five were helping in the rebuilding of a bridge blown up by guerrillas. The other soldiers have been reprimanded. State Department regulations for United States troops who are in El Salvador to train indigenous soldiers forbid the carrying of rifles or entry into likely combat zones.

The incident has come at an extremely embarrassing time for the Reagan Administration, which is expected to ask Congress in the near future for substantially increased economic and military aid throughout Central America.

A report in *The Washington Post* today is likely to increase alarm among Congressmen over exactly what the Administration intends to do to counter what it sees as the active Cuban support of revolutionary forces in the area.

The report said that the Central Intelligence Agency had agreed a \$15m (about £10.3m) plan to build a broad political opposition to the left-wing Sandinista regime in Nicaragua and to form action teams for paramilitary political and intelligence gathering activities in Nicaragua and other Central American countries.

Mainly non-Americans would be used to carry out the proposals but Americans might possibly be involved with unspecified Cuban training. The report said, however, that whether the plan had been approved.

Its front page report, however, said that President Reagan had authorized the encouragement of political and paramilitary operations by other Central and South American governments against the Cuban presence in Nicaragua.

Administration officials see Nicaragua as a potential armed camp, supported by Cuba, to mount an insurrection in Central America and assist the guerrillas in El Salvador.

Not all Congressmen, however, see the conflict in El Salvador in the same stark terms of an East-West struggle as does the Administration and these are concerned that the United States might be supporting an unacceptable regime.

Senator Patrick Leahy, who is in El Salvador on a fact finding mission, said Senator Claiborne Pell, of the Senate foreign relations committee, said at a news conference yesterday that their meeting on human rights with General José Guillermo García, the Salvadoran Defence Minister had gone badly.

San Salvador: Five Salvadoran soldiers have been committed for trial for the rape and murder of three American nuns and a lay worker, President José Napoleón Duvalier said. He said that a sixth soldier had been freed for lack of evidence.

Peking: United States aid to El Salvador simply aggravates turbulence in the region and the Soviet Union is taking advantage of this to infiltrate Central America and the Caribbean, an official Chinese magazine, *Beijing Review*, said here today. — Reuters.

President's popularity Why Reagan is out of touch with voters

From Nicholas Hirst
Washington, Feb 14

President Reagan, who likes to project himself as embodying the hopes and concerns of ordinary Americans, is getting increasingly out of touch with the people who sent him to the White House a year ago.

His four of seven Mid-Western states last week, glaringly demonstrated how isolated he has become. There were no walkabouts or shaking the hands of well-wishers. He was not even available for informal chats with local party dignitaries, except brief meetings with state Governors and Republican Senators.

Increasingly, the President is a leader who is seen only on television, a medium which he handles brilliantly, but which inevitably makes him appear detached, aloof and arrogantly unaware of the everyday problems of Americans: battling with growing unemployment and reduced social spending.

Just how out of touch the President has become was evident during his visit to Des Moines, the state capital of Iowa.

Most of Iowa's 2.5 million inhabitants are involved in farming or activities associated with agriculture. The main problems of farmers at present are: low market prices, high interest rates and the threat of a Soviet grain embargo.

Yet in his 20-minute speech to the state legislature, the President said he would be farming once, and instead dealt only with the 1983 budget and his plans for a "new federalism". It was as though Mrs Thatcher had gone to Coventry to discuss no case law with the local industry.

Similarly, in Indiana, a state where 12 per cent of the population is out of work, he made only a passing reference to unemployment. Yet recent polls have shown that the issue which is causing most concern.

Security, and the need to protect the President from another assassination attempt, is partly responsible for Mr Reagan's detachment from the view. Since the attempt on

his life last March, the service is no longer prepared to let him mingle with the crowds, as President Carter used to do.

Instead, the President is whisked to hotel in a bullet-proof car, moving so fast that a local newspaper remarked: "He might have been riding inside a speeding thermos flask." It was doubtful whether he could tell if the crowds along the route were cheering him or protesting against his bodyguards.

In fact, no one came to cheer during last week's trip, but there were plenty of people who braved sub-zero temperatures to chant "Jobs, jobs, jobs" or "Bread not bombs".

The need to protect the President does not, however, explain why he also has virtually no contact with local Republican Party officials.

In Des Moines, for example, apart from a set-piece speech, he made only a brief appearance before 40 local businessmen, who paid \$1,000 a head to have a breakfast of quiche lorraine and strawberries with President.

Even senior members of the President's staff seem to be growing increasingly aloof. Mr James Baker, the White House chief of staff, and his deputy, Mr Michael Deaver, dined alone when they were in Des Moines, even though Mr Robert Ray, the state Governor, and the Republican Senator, Mr Charles Grassley, were in the city at the time.

If the President had met Republican supporters during his tour, he would have heard complaints similar to those being shouted by the demonstrators who lined the route in Minneapolis. Des Moines and Indianapolis.

"A lot of us are angry with the President," commented Mrs Sue Mullins, a Republican member of the Iowa State Legislature. Women, she said, were particularly critical of the disparity between defence spending and social welfare programmes.

Levesque routs radicals

From John Best
Ottawa, Feb 14

Mr René Lévesque, the Premier of Quebec, secured full control of the Parti Québécois yesterday, defeating a challenge by a group of radicals at a party convention in Montreal overwhelmingly endorsed his position that an independent Quebec should maintain an economic association with the rest of Canada.

The 2,200 delegates also rejected Mr Lévesque's second proposal that independence cannot be achieved without the support of a majority of the French-speaking province's voters.

The results represented a triumph for Mr Lévesque, leader of the separatist party. They came after a postal referendum in October, when Premier Lévesque sought to force radicals who had seized control of party convention in December and pushed through resolutions demanding a bolder approach to sovereignty and withdrawal of Quebec from the economic association. Ninety-five per cent of the referendum vote favoured Mr Lévesque.

The Premier reassured this weekend's convention that the PQ will have the right to declare independence unilaterally, if it wins the next provincial election, not expected until 1985, with more than 50 per cent of the vote.

Israel faces strike on Golan

From Moshe Brilliant
Tel Aviv, Feb 14

Pro-Syrian Druze stepped up their anti-Israeli civil disobedience campaign on the Golan Heights today with a general strike, protesting at the withdrawal of local leaders suspected of involvement in revolt.

Schools and businesses in the four Druze villages on the "blitzed-swept" heights remained shut this morning, and workers employed in Israeli enterprises for the past several years at home despite warnings that they might lose their jobs.

Substantial Israeli forces, including units of the tough frontier police, made up largely of Israeli co-religionists of the Golan Druze, were stationed in the villages, but there were no disturbances.

The Druze are an Arabic speaking, national-religious minority, an offshoot of Islam.

Frontier policemen were conspicuous today protecting the homes of local Druze who have been outspokenly pro-Israel and have been ostracized by the community.

The strike call was issued yesterday after religious and lay leaders met to discuss the arrests, ordered by Mr Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Defence Minister.

The detainees, who were ordered to be held for three months without trial, include Sheikh Kamal Kanj abu Salah, a septuagenarian former deputy of the Syrian Parliament, contacted by the Israelis in 1972 as a Syrian spy, but pardoned the next year as a prisoner's exchange. The others are his cousin, Salehman abu Salah, Salehman's son Kanj and Mahmoud Salameh.

The Druze campaign against Israel has included a social and religious boycott of those who had taken out Israeli identity papers. Inhabitants were also urged to refuse to pay Israeli taxes and to decline Israeli health benefits and social security payments.

Last week residents in the village of Ein Kanza were said to have chased away surveyors attempting to measure their homes for tax assessment.

Jerusalem: A government spokesman said after a Cabinet meeting today that Israel would not remain idle in the face of what it sees as a threat to its superiority in the Middle East balance of power.

Relations with Washington were discussed in detail by the Cabinet after American officials, travelling in the Middle East, met with Mr. Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, said. Washington would seriously consider supplying Jordan with F16 military jets and Hawk surface-to-air missiles.

The Israeli spokesman said today that if such a deal went through "it would bring a new and most dangerous element into the Middle East."

Aircrew in scuffle on flight deck

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg, Feb 14

Five thousand mourners, both black and white, surged through the streets of central Johannesburg at the weekend shouting black power slogans and waving the black, green and gold flag of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) after the funeral of Dr Neil Aggett, the young white trade union leader found hanged in his prison cell here on February 5.

The funeral in St Mary's Anglican Cathedral, and the slow seven-mile procession to the cemetery where Dr Aggett was buried in a simple pine-wood coffin made by his friends, rapidly assumed a political character. It developed into the biggest non-violent, anti-government demonstration in many years.

By South African standards, the police, though present in large numbers, acted with sensible restraint. There was only one potentially ugly moment when camouflaged riot police armed with teargas rushed out of a side street and blocked the path of the 5,000 marchers, who sat in the road. After a few tense minutes the procession was allowed to continue.

Security police with cameras, perched in trees and at the windows of blocks of flats along the route and mingling with the graveside crowd made a filmed record of the funeral procession. It will be surprising if some of this material is not used in the trial of the trade unionists and others within the next few months.

Dr Aggett was one of scores of trade unionists, both black and white, rounded up by police last October and November and held without trial under the country's rigorous security laws. The new generation of leaders of the black trade unions are widely seen in official circles as fronts for the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party, both of which are prohibited organizations.

Up to 2,000 mourners packed into the cathedral yesterday morning, in stilling heat and several thousand more lined the streets outside. For an hour before the service began the mainly black congregation sang freedom songs including "Go down, South Africa", written by his union colleagues for the occasion.

There was also repeated singing of the black nationalist anthem "Nkosi Sikelel' i Afrika" (God Bless Africa), accompanied by the chanting of slogans and the raising of clenched fists.

Dr Aggett's parents and family, though moved by the show of support for their dead son, were clearly distressed by some of these manifestations.

The funeral service was conducted jointly by the white Anglican bishop and the black Anglican dean of Johannesburg, underlining the racial ecumenism of the occasion.

Bishop Desmond Tutu, the general secretary of the anti-racist South African Council of churches and an outspoken critic of apartheid, led the prayers.

In his sermon, the Dean, the Rev Simeon Nkomo, said "It is my hope that many South Africans will today make a decision that will change the kind of life we live in this country."

There were bursts of applause for a powerful oration from Mr Jan Theron, the white national secretary of the non-racial but overwhelmingly black African food and catering workers' union, of which Dr Aggett was the Transvaal secretary. The work of building Democratic non-racial unions must go on, he said.

Wearing a white tee-shirt emblazoned with a clenched fist, Mr Theron said that Dr Aggett had been killed for his ideals. At the same time as the government was saying it wanted to recognize black trade unions, it was preparing a show trial against them.

"It was because Neil could not and would not play a part in this trial that he is dead," Mr Theron declared.

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'Climate of hysteria' in Lisbon

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg, Feb 14

Lisbon, Feb 14. — Communists today accused the right-wing Portuguese Government of creating a "climate of hysteria" by trying to suppress the Communist Party with a plot to subvert democracy.

In a television broadcast last night, Senhor Angelo Correia, the Interior Minister, said the Government had foiled an attempt to overthrow democracy after a series of "subversive actions" during the Communist one-day strike on Friday. Government statements also announced the discovery of a car-load of arms and the arrest of a small group of armed men in Lisbon.

In its leader column the Communist daily *O Dia* said the Government had done its utmost to create an atmosphere of violence and insecurity in the country.

Throughout the build up to Friday's stoppage, billed by the Communist-backed CGTP-UN union as Portugal's first general strike, the Government pursued a vigorous campaign to discredit the country's most threatening force to democracy.

It also hinted that it planned further cuts in the number of Soviet representatives in Lisbon, after the expulsion of two diplomats last month. — Reuters.

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Chirac mobilizes Gaullists

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Feb 14

As discontent spreads among the farmers, white collar workers and the trade unions, the French opposition is beginning to show its teeth — to much to the chagrin of the Socialists who are complaining of its aggressiveness and intolerance.

The Coalition Government is now beginning to worry about the opposition's capacity to delay or obstruct the progress of Socialism.

Mr Jacques Chirac is mobilizing his Gaullist troops, now tightly under his control, to oppose the Government on all fronts. Gone are the days when President Mitterrand's foreign policy almost found favour in his eyes. Mr Chirac d'Estaing and Mr Raymond Barre are slowly emerging from the wings, and they did last week to try to prevent him from commanding the centre of the stage.

The opposition's problem, however, is not one of conviction or combastiveness — its "young Turks" effectively demonstrated both during recent parliamentary battles — but one of unity and of leadership.

Mr Chirac is making good his party's claim at its Toulouse congress last month to be the spearhead of the opposition forces.

Against this the former President suffers the bluish

French opposition bares teeth

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Feb 14

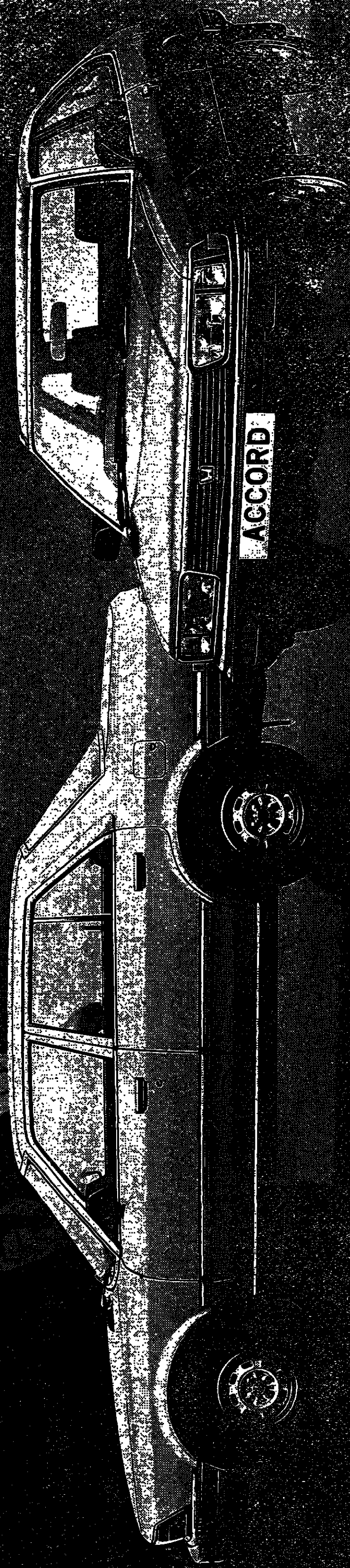
which attaches to a loser, and from the disparate nature of the coalition of Gaullists and centrists, whose strongest cement was the presidential election.

He is still convinced that the future lies with the liberal sector.

Mr Chirac d'Estaing gave two interviews last week which were widely quoted and he will openly present them in the autumn when he presides at a meeting of Gaullist clubs. But M Jean Lecanuet, the UDP chairman, said recently that "if the Gaullists add a conventional leader, the UDP has several of presidential calibre and that the choice of one would not wait until two years before the presidential elections of 1985. Which means that Chirac d'Estaing is not an inevitable candidate."

There is a third potential opposition leader in the shape of M Raymond Barre. The former Prime Minister is slowly, deliberately and discreetly, in his own inimitable style, reminding his fellow countrymen of his existence against the day when, shaken out of their present political slumber, they will agree to the second Chirac d'Estaing which he stands.

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The Times Profile: The new political think tanks

Now is the time for all intellectuals to come to the aid of their party

● The last four months have seen the birth of two new political think tanks and two new political journals. The *Taney Society* serves the SDP, the *Socialist Society*, the Bennite left. The magazines *New Socialist* and the *Journal of Economic Affairs*, represent the views of the Labour left and the free market right. A third journal is to be launched in the summer as an SDP/Liberal forum. Ian Bradley profiles the competing intellectual pressure groups as they bid to influence their parties in the long run-up to the next general election.

The Left

Messages to a listening leader

Michael Foot and Tony Benn share a joint responsibility for the sense of intellectual excitement that is currently felt not just in the Labour Party but in the British left as a whole. The new Labour leader is much more open to ideas than either Sir Harold Wilson or James Callaghan, while the Bennite revolution has encouraged many left-wing intellectuals previously hostile to Labour to come within the party orbit and try and influence its policies.

The clearest sign of this latter trend was the formation last month of the *Socialist Society* which brings together for the first time since the 1930s Labour politicians and Marxist intellectuals. The society's inaugural conference was attended by Tony Benn, Eric Heffer, Ken Livingstone and Peter Tatchell. The working group behind the society's formation includes leading left-wing intellectuals like Robin Blackburn, Ralph Miliband and Raymond Williams.

The society's aim is to help create a political climate "in which socialist ideas have become part of the common sense of our age". Although it has no formal ties with the Labour Party, more than half of its first 500 members and 13 of its 30 strong steering committee (14 if you count Tariq Ali, one of the main instigators of the society and currently trying to join) are in the party.

Another recent venture springing from the same intellectual re-awakening which produced the *Socialist Society* but more closely tied to the Labour Party, has been the remarkably successful launch of the magazine *New Socialist*. It was set up last September by Labour's national executive committee with a budget of £1,000 and a circulation target of 5,000 to be reached in three years.

In fact, the first three issues have each sold around 35,000, more than the United Kingdom circulation of the *New Statesman*. James Curran, the editor, has complete editorial independence and is using contributors from the SDP and the far left as well as Labour Party members. He himself is a member of the steering committee of the *Socialist Society* and hopes to include articles by many of its leading members. The latest issue contains an interview of Michael Foot by E. P. Thompson, the historian and disarmament campaigner, and major features on Socialist Europe.

The success of these two periodicals and of the new society suggest a quickening of intellectual activity on the left which is confirmed by the present state of the Labour Party's research department. Traditionally given a more active role in policy making than its Conservative equivalent, the department is at present engaged on producing a major policy document which will appear under the title *Labour's Programme*, 1982.

The party's 12 researchers work to the Home Policy Committee, chaired by Tony Benn, and they are broadly Bennite in sympathy, voicing the common complaint of the left that recent Labour Governments have ignored manifestos and policy commitments. Morale is now much higher.

In the words of Geoff Bish, the party's head of research, "From late 1975 onwards our department was locked in a bitter struggle with the Labour Government. The speech which Jim Callaghan made to the 1976 conference was pure monetarism and we hated it. Now under the new leadership our relations with the party hierarchy are much better. We see much more of Michael Foot than we did of Wilson and Callaghan who were both suspicious of us. They were much more open to influence from the right and the City."

The only Labour think tank to escape the general sense of excitement and euphoria at the moment is the Fabian Society, the traditional home of intellectual socialism. The Fabians have inevitably suffered from the rise of the SDP. Although they say that only 107 of their 4,000 members have left to join the new party, they have lost some of their most active pamphleteers and supporters including Shirley Williams and John Roper. Three of those who have left regularly made donations totalling £10,000 to the society.

The Centre

A sudden spawning of sub-groups

The SDP is awash with policy study groups and think tanks and seems to have succeeded in co-opting nearly half the academic establishment of the country into its policy-making process.

At the centre of its intellectual ferment is a small department headed by Christopher Smallwood, a former academic economist and Treasury mandarin, who is the SDP's policy coordinator. He oversees the activities of a growing number of policy groups (15 at the last count) made up of academics and other experts which formally report to the party's policy committee chaired by Roy Jenkins.

These groups have themselves spawned sub-groups covering more detailed areas of policy and there are also a large number of local SDP policy groups. Borrowing from his experience in the Devolution Unit of the Cabinet, Smallwood has decreed that the policy groups should produce consultative "Green Papers" after Easter for discussion by local groups. Fuller revised papers will then go to the newly elected Council of Social Democracy in October.

Involving itself in more long-term policy research and philosophical speculation will be the newest star in the social democratic intellectual firmament, the *Taney Society*. It has been set up by Lord Young of Dartington as a think tank for the new party which will provide publications and research of the kind provided for the Labour Party by the Fabian Society.

The new society has pulled in some distinguished thinkers including Peter Hall, professor of geography at Reading University, Tyrrell Burgess, reader in the philosophy of social institutions at North East London Polytechnic, and Tom Burke, former executive director of Friends of the Earth; Malcolm Dean, social policy editor of *The Guardian*, and Martin Minoque, senior lecturer in the University of Manchester.

Relations with the party establishment are a little cool, not least because one of the reasons for setting up the *Taney Society* was a feeling that policy-making in the SDP has been too far concentrated at the top.

Lord Young hopes that the society will have study groups working on individual areas and will publish pamphlets and, possibly, books of a more philosophical nature. He is already editor of the *Forum* series of SDP pamphlets, while his fellow social democrat peer Lord Kennet is editing a series of SDP policy books to be published by Lord Weidenfeld.

Liberals, who had hoped that the *Taney Society* would become a joint venture, have a more modest policy making machine. Peter Knowlson, head of policy, works almost as a one-man band although he does coordinate the activities of 25 separate policy panels. The Liberals also have their own mini-version of the *Taney Society*, a discussion group called *Arena* whose leading lights include William Wallace, deputy director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, and Richard Holme, director of the National Committee for Electoral Reform. Both men are speech writers and leading policy advisers to David Steel.

Liberals and Social Democrats have equal representation on two commissions set up by the two parties to examine major areas of policy: constitutional reform, and employment and industrial recovery.

Members of the two parties are also co-operating on another venture in the field of intellectual influence and policy-making. A new journal, probably to be called *The Ally*, is to be launched in the early summer. The editor will be Christopher Layton, a former *Economist* journalist and senior official with the EEC Commission. The editorial board includes David Marquand, Dick Taverne, John Horam, Richard Holme and William Wallace.

How far all this frantic intellectual activity impinges on the leadership of the SDP/Liberal alliance and produces radical new policies remains to be seen. At the moment there is a feeling that, in the words of one prominent figure in the alliance, "The membership is burrowing away and we've got to let them go through everything, even if it means we simply end up re-inventing the wheel."

The Right

Towards an election manifesto

Prominent in any catalogue of the intellectual influences on the present Conservative Government must be the Centre for Policy Studies, founded by Sir Keith Joseph in September 1974 to provide a corrective to the collectivist and dirigiste ideas which he saw as having dominated British political and economic thinking — including that of the Tories — during the twentieth century. Its critics regard it as having had a major influence in converting the Conservatives to monetarism and point to the fact that Mrs Thatcher has been intimately involved with the centre since its beginnings.

Alfred Sherman, director of studies at the centre, plays down its influence: "There's a great mythology about us among what one might call the demi-literate in the Tory Party and a feeling that ideas are much more important than they in fact are. We haven't won the soul of the party yet, but I would say

that if it wasn't for the fight we put up in 1974 Edward Heath would still be leader of the opposition."

"We have affected the economic culture rather than economic policies," he said. "We have contributed to the scepticism that there is now about neo-Keynesianism, to the feeling that it's not the railways that need electrifying, but Sir Peter Parker. Keynesian remedies won't work to solve this recession because it has been caused by the attempted application of those remedies."

It is difficult to measure the centre's influence on the Prime Minister and leading members of the Cabinet. Sherman himself has direct access to Mrs Thatcher, for whom he regularly writes speeches.

Other groups representing what might be called the new intellectual right have also had a clear influence on current thinking in the Government. Prominent among them is the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), founded in 1957 to promote free market doctrines. Like the centre, the institute is conveniently situated in Westminster and senior Conservatives, along with members of other parties, attend its regular Hobart lunches.

Aims (formerly Aims of Industry) and the Institute of Directors are two other important intellectual pressure groups which have spread the free market gospel among educators and industrialists.

A group of leading industrialists which meets regularly under the auspices of the Centre for Policy Studies, Aims and the Institute of Directors is reckoned to have had a major influence on Government thinking. The Argonauts, as they are



Who's influencing the leaders

LABOUR

Fabian Society
Staff: 7
Budget: £95,000
Membership: 4,000
Activities: publications, meetings, 100 local groups.

Labour Party (Research Department)
Staff: 12 researchers + 6 other staff
Budget: £200,000
Activities: policy development, campaign material, briefing spokesmen and MPs, processing constituency resolutions.

Socialist Society
Staff: 2
Membership: c500, expected to grow to 1,000 in next three months
Activities: study groups, meetings, publications (including monthly video magazine), books.

New Socialist
Circulation: 35,000
The first Labour Party discussion journal. Has close links with Socialist Society.

SDP/LIBERAL

Taney Society
Membership: too early to say
Staff: 2 (unpaid)
Activities: running national and local study groups, publishing philosophical pamphlets, researching policy issues.

SDP Policy Department
Staff: 2 + another to be appointed
Activities: co-ordinating efforts of 15 policy committees and servicing party and MPs.

Joint SDP / Liberal Commissions
Two commissions preparing reports on constitutional reform and employment / industrial recovery. Their policy proposals will be considered at this autumn's party conferences.

Liberal Party Policy Department
Staff: 3
Activities: servicing and co-ordinating 25 policy panels, also keeps a watching brief over *Arena*, Liberal discussion group, and other party activities.

"The Ally"
Probable title for new alliance journal

CONSERVATIVE

Centre for Policy Studies
Budget: refuse to disclose
Staff: 7
Activities: runs study groups & seminars; publishes pamphlets; aims to change climate of opinion.

Institute of Economic Affairs
Budget: c£350,000
Staff: 14
Activities: runs seminars, publishes pamphlets and the *Journal of Economic Affairs*. Also home of the Social Affairs Unit.

Aims (The Free Enterprise Organisation)
Budget: c£350,000 (but varies with campaigns)
Staff: 10
Activities: informing and persuading politicians, publishing, coordinates the Argonauts.

Institute of Directors (External Affairs Function)
Budget: £300,000
Staff: 15
Activities: lobbying on company law, industrial relations and taxation.

Conservative Party Research Department
Budget: not disclosed
Staff: 20
Activities: servicing back bench committees & MPs, preparing campaign material, policy preparation.

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Words and their meanings

Fraught train of thought

This morning, brothers and sisters, I am fraught with intimations of impermanence about *fraught*. It is a fashionable word. Here are a couple of examples from fashionable journalists. "In matters of Love the *fraught* old courtships of such partners as Andre and Mia and even Roddy and Margaret have been overtaken by the style public pairings of Billy Connolly and Pamela Stephenson," and the other: "The position of Labour's Right on the National Executive is also more *fraught* than the victory headlines suggested."

I caught myself saying it the other day. Somebody telephoned for a general discussion of life while I was making up the Books Page. How were things, he asked. Pretty *fraught*, I heard myself saying, with a gusty sigh of resignation.

This is a recent shift in meaning: too recent to be recorded by any of the new dictionaries. The *Longman New Generation Dictionary*, published last July, in the five and a half centuries of the word's history in English until the last few

years, things had to be *fraught* not absolutely, but with something. It was originally a nautical word, meaning laden with something, and came to us from the seafaring Dutch.

Here are some examples of the former literal and transferred use of *fraught* from assorted masters of Eng Lit. Macaulay: "His painted bark of *fraught* for some proud bazaar's arcades." Bacon wrote of the writings of Plinius being *fraught* with much fabulous matter much. "That all the world's *fraught*," Shelley: "A loftier Argo cleaves the main, *Fraught* with a later prize." Swift wrote, majestically, of a large memory, plentifully *fraught* with Theological Polysyllables.

We do change their meanings to meet new needs; otherwise we should still be using crafty to mean strong, and silly to mean defenceless. I put forward a suggestion of why *fraught* has changed as it has. One of the early figurative uses of *fraught* was big with the promise or menace of some-

thing or other. The English, being people who expect the worst and are seldom disappointed, tended to be *fraught* with the latter meaning. A sixteenth-century prayer speaks of this life of ours being *fraught* with vicissitudes. The idea of difficulty and adversity attached itself over the years to *fraught*.

And so we have come to use *fraught* absolutely in informal speech to mean that someone is worried and in a dither, or that conditions are vexatious. "You're looking very *fraught*, Philip!"

The new use is still too informal to be used in written English, in *The Times* at any rate, except in the charity and thistle-down parts of the paper that lack gravitas. It may be a passing vogue. The new use may become stale and mouldy and die. On the other hand, feeling *fraught* may fill a linguistic need in our Age of Anxiety. We shall see. In any case, it is an interesting shift in meaning that is taking place under our very ears.

Philip Howard

Never mind the dollar, our interest rates can come down now

by Gordon Pepper

The Government's economic policies seem to have few friends left. One reason is that we appear to have had the treatment but not the cure. The treatment is illustrated by the depressed level of production and the awful unemployment figures. The absence of a cure is suggested by inflation remaining stubbornly high; currently it is 12 per cent, and few can foresee a figure much lower than 8 per cent.

A second reason is that the Government targets for monetary and fiscal policy are seen to have been missed by a wide margin. There is in some quarters a kind of grim satisfaction in the money supply being out of control, the economy being in deep recession and inflation staying high.

This looks like a pretty formidable indictment. In my view, however, it is a misleading and short-sighted interpretation of the situation. While the Government has made many errors, not all of which were visible only with the benefit of hindsight, its broad strategy is still easily defended. This can best be seen by examining the proposed alternatives: most of which involve an attempt to engineer a deflation and to dispose of inflation by introducing an incomes policy.

It cannot be claimed that this combination is a leap in the dark. If history is any guide, the outcome is scarcely less predictable than death itself.

The 1970s saw two clear episodes of engineered deflation plus inflation. In the first, Mr Heath's succeeded, for a while, in reducing unemployment but was accompanied by a grotesque increase in the money supply and soaring wage and price inflation.

The second, begun by Mr Healey in 1977, is more relevant to present circumstances because the government sought to pay for fiscal expansion by additional borrowing (which is also what Messrs Gilmour, Jenkins and Shore seem to have in mind). In 1978, unemployment did fall, modestly, but interest rates rose and wage and price inflation again began to boil over.

This brings us to whether the Government's monetary and fiscal policies are in any way defensible. In my judgment, although it is wise not to be categorical, it is very probable that they are not.

More precisely, monetary growth has not for long strayed far from the path laid down in the Government's Medium Term Financial Strategy, while the fiscal policy objectives have been achieved somewhat earlier than planned.

When the authorities presented the policy they stressed sterling M3, the broad definition of money which includes deposit accounts as well as current accounts and notes and coins. The Bank of England had first published a target in 1978, seeking to affect expectations and reduce inflation and interest rates. This justified a simple target expressed for just one definition of the money supply.

An important reason for choosing M3 was a perceived link between it and the public sector borrowing requirement. The bank preferred M3 because this enabled it to argue with the Treasury that the PSBR was too high, i.e. that fiscal policy was too lax.

When the present Government's strategy was being designed, people outside official quarters were consulted. Some thought that the government could not control public revenue, because it could not control the depth of the impending recession. There was, therefore, a strong

argument for excluding the PSBR from the published strategy. In the event, it was decided that the strategy would lose credibility if this were done. Further, Treasury ministers wanted to emphasize the PSBR to strengthen their case against expenditure ministers.

So much for the presentation, which has been a pretty complete failure, but what was the underlying intent? The Green Paper on monetary control in 1980 stressed that the authorities would monitor all the defini-

The right approach is part science and part art. One can usually come to a reasonable judgment but sometimes the monetary barometer is jammed...

tions of the money supply. It is well known that when the authorities target any one definition, all previous relationships between it and everything else are liable to break down. As a corollary, the stance of monetary policy should be judged by looking at everything but the targeted variable.

The right approach is part science and part art. One can usually come to a reasonable judgment but sometimes the monetary barometer is jammed...

Following this general approach, it is arguable that monetary policy is currently not too loose but is, if anything, in danger of becoming too tight. The growth of the narrow money aggregates has decelerated in the last six months. M1, which excludes deposit accounts, grew by 8 per cent in the year to mid-December, by 6 per cent per annum in the last six months and by only 1 per cent per annum in the last three. This should be compared with a target for sterling M3 in 1981/82 of 6-10 per cent.

Sterling M3 is highly misleading at the moment. However, the more reliable and broadest aggregate, PSL2, which includes building society deposits, has had an underlying rate of growth of about 11 per cent per annum. Although there may be certain technical problems for the future, it is reasonable to conclude that monetary growth recently has not been excessive.

Turning to fiscal policy, the underlying intent was described by Mr Nigel Lawson in January, 1980, as one of "the PSBR not changing much as a proportion of gross domestic product in recession years, but falling fairly sharply in non-recession years". At that time, the PSBR was 5 per cent of gdp and is now 4.1 per cent. Instead of staying unchanged, as Mr Lawson suggested, it has fallen by 0.9 per cent of gdp, or about £2,250m. So the Government is not only broadly on track with its monetary policy but is ahead of the game with its fiscal policy.

If that is true, what are the implications? First, the period of most intense pain should be ending; the cure is starting to work. Evidence of this is:

● Inflation is starting to fall again.

● The sharp fall in economic activity ended in the second

quarter of 1981 and has been followed by a gradual recovery.

● There have been large gains in productivity.

● Unfilled vacancies have risen, short time working has fallen, overtime has increased and the rise in unemployment has slowed.

If the cure goes according to plan, the economic recovery should gradually accelerate.

There are, however, a number of worrisome features of the most immediate of which is events in the United States, where President Reagan has cut taxes but not public expenditure.

Although United States inflation seems now to be falling, there will probably be either a further rise in dollar interest rates or United States economic activity will be more sluggish than is generally expected. Pressures from the United States promise to be disruptive and contradictory. Have we no choice but for our economy to pause again while the United States is sorting itself out?

My conclusion is that we do have a choice, and those who argue that the behaviour of sterling should be the prime determinant of United Kingdom interest rates are wrong.

Our interest rates should be reduced when, as now, the domestic monetary indicators suggest that such action is appropriate, whether or not United States interest rates are rising.

There is a case for over-riding the domestic monetary indicators and cutting sterling interest rates substantially against European currencies, not if it is just falling against the dollar.

The author is joint senior partner of stockbrokers W. Greenwell & Co.

Although in 1970 I was thrown out of Hungary as a dangerous imperialist spy, I still have a relationship with it. Quite soon after my expulsion I received semi-official, or at least officially inspired, messages telling me that I ought not to make too much of the incident (after all, what is a little spying between friends?) and that if I were to apply for a Hungarian visa it would be granted.

I replied that it was nice to know this and that when I next wanted to visit Hungary I would apply. I did so in 1979, and they did grant me a visa. They also rolled out a well, not a red, but a pale pink carpet for me, received me with perfect courtesy, and enabled me to enjoy my stay at home as I still call Hungary, although I do not think of it as "home".

My feelings about Hungary have always been very ambivalent, but some things about it I definitely love: the countryside round Siófok, for example — those gentle hills and green mountains of Transdanubia. As a child it never occurred to me that the village's surroundings could stir anyone as beautiful, but when I saw them again in 1970 I realised that they were.

So what about my feelings for Britain? The English took me in at a critical period [1938] and probably saved my life. If I had not been here I would have been sent to a concentration camp or would have had to serve in a Labour Battalion. I must have come out of it alive, or I might not. But gratitude is no basis for

beliefs that £2m pounds will need to be raised privately if the last British colony in the South Pacific is to be saved.

Des. Res., USA

Two executives from the New York headquarters of Sotheby's auctioneers are in London today to argue that "desirable properties and houses of character often cost less in the USA". Among the names to conjure with they quote in their list of satisfied clients is "John De Lorean, the motor car manufacturer", who last year bought a 430-acre farm in New Jersey.

An Independent Broadcasting Authority report notes that some local BBC stations have developed a strong tradition of minority and access programmes, "so much so that one producer sometimes regarded BBC local radio as 'appealing only to a blind, bell-ringing, deaf, canal-loving member of a women's institute'."

Under-booked

You might not have noticed, but Frank Delaney's edition of *Friday Night Saturday Morning* on BBC 2 this weekend was supposed to be a sharp reminder to the Beeb that there is a bookish audience it is shamefully neglecting. "It is a national scandal that there is no regular television programme about books", Delaney protested. BBC 2 dropped Read

THE TIMES DIARY

Appropriately Sir Billy Butlin, the holiday camp magnate, has the jolliest and most visited of graves. The bouncy fellow was a motif on all Butlin's stationery.

Butlin, who died in 1980, is buried in St John's cemetery, Jersey. The tomb, which holds 10, has a headstone with carvings depicting an amusement

All about it, which achieved audiences of 3m to 4m. Delaney, whose Radio 4 *Bookshelf* raised 6,000 inquiries for a first novel competition in one week, says he also got 120 letters from a single six-minute spot on *Pebble Mill* devoted to poetry. "People are starving for lack of coverage of literature", he claims.

Anthony Burgess, one of Delaney's guests, has none the less succeeded in selling well over 500,000 copies of *Earthly Powers* internationally. How is it that English fiction sells so well without TV backing? "The dimension people have missed", Burgess told PHS, "is that the English really have had a good time in the past in which they have produced a considerable body of fiction of outstanding worth. It may be a symptom of a sick society. The first Elizabethan age had a roaring inflation, worse than we have ever known, caused by gold from the New World, and they got Shakes-

Winston Churchill called it "the worst disaster and largest capitulation in British military history". Forty years ago today, some 130,000 British and Commonwealth troops surrendered to a force of 35,000 Japanese after an eight week campaign — which, apart from numerous acts of individual gallantry — was an unmitigated debacle. Those same troops then marched tamely off to the prison camps blithely singing "There'll always be an Eng-land". Singapore had fallen, and with it, a way of life, although the participants at the time did not realize this.

In the immediate aftermath there were loud demands in the Commons for an official inquiry — which never sat — and harsh words were uttered. The MP for South Ayrshire referred to Malaya as "the greatest sink of corruption in the world" and described the business community there as a "swindling gang of sharks". Retrospect has done little to soften this sense of righteous outrage, and the bitterness and resentment linger on.

It is an odd quirk of national character that the British can normally delude themselves that their defeats were in reality, glorious victories. The "spirit of Dunkirk" never ceases to be invoked when times are hard and the senseless heroism of the Charge of the Light Brigade is impressed on every schoolboy. In this particular year there will be a lot of fortieth anniversaries to "celebrate", if that is the right term to use, St Nazaire, Dieppe etc, but these were not the defeats that the British could not be made good.

The impression that most people have of the end of the colony comes from the well-known photograph of the factious party of the slightly ridiculous figure of Lieutenant General Arthur Percival in his flapping knee-length shorts, the incongruous tin hats and the limp Union Jack as they marched up the Bukit Timah road, tells it all. The fact remains though, that the very act of surrender signified more than a military defeat. It was the end of an era.

For the first time in history, a major Western power had been defeated fairly and squarely in battle

a solid relationship, and my love for this country is not based on it.

I like it here, and I always have liked it here — although in an earlier book I was not so positive about it. I said that during my early time in this country "I admired the English enormously but did not like them very much; today I admire them much more". Perhaps the first part of that statement ought to have been put a little differently, but the second part of it remains exactly true.

Could I ever leave England? Friends often urge me to spend at least half of my time abroad — to buy a little house in France or Italy. I always refuse to do so. One does not want to live in a foreign country for a lifetime.

"But don't you want to live abroad?" they ask me. I tell them: "But I do live abroad". And I mean it. I feel perfectly at home here, this is my country, I belong to this place — yet I continue to feel that I am living among strange and peculiar people, and that my real kin and kin are those even stranger and more peculiar people on the banks of the Danube.

It ought to be an unsettling situation, but it is perfectly all right with me. In any case, what can I do about it? Would I stick to England in all circumstances? No, I would not. I would not occur to me to run away if I were threatened by a nuclear



General Percival (left) and other officers march with Japanese victors to surrender on February 15, 1942 — the picture that symbolized British defeat in Singapore.

Singapore: the bitterness lingers on, 40 years after

by a supposedly "inferior" Asian race. This lesson was not lost on the native inhabitants of the East. The mythical British Crown, of which they were loyal subjects, had not kept its side of the bargain — it had failed to protect them. Since the war there has been no hesitation in apportioning blame. The military blamed the greed of the civilian community and their obstructiveness while the business community reciprocated by vilifying the blimpiness and inefficiency of the soldiery. In all this there are elements of truth — civilians dancing at Raffles Hotel while enemy bombers' droned over the defenceless city and undisciplined mobs of drunken soldiers storming the docks to try to get on to one of the last ships to leave. But who can blame those soldiers? They had no part in the wealth they had been sent to defend and they were often treated as social pariahs by the white expatriates who

placed their clubs "out of bounds" to the sweaty soldiery. Myths and misconceptions cluster around the story of Singapore — like vultures around a corpse and these myths die hard. Perhaps the most durable one is that the island was a fortress but the guns all pointed the wrong way. The point is that the guns, although designed to fire out to sea, could mostly be trained around to fire inland, and did so. The problem was that they had the wrong ammunition — armour-piercing rather than high-explosive to deal with troops.

One problem that is always asked is, could Singapore have held out? Percival's defeat, is often compared unfavourably with the American General Wainwright's epic defence of Bataan, and Corregidor in the Philippines, which was roughly contemporary. Some people have claimed that if some sort of

"supremo" had been appointed the island could have held out until relieved.

The fact is though, that the main reason for the surrender was that the water supply for the colony was situated on the mainland in Johore — and that was firmly in the hands of the Japanese. Faced by the problem of a two million civilian population and no aircraft to protect them from the almost continuous bombing, Percival had no choice. The fault lay with successive pre-war governments who failed to face up to the threat of war in the East and the inter-service rivalry that made a farce of sensible defence planning.

Of those captured, many failed to return and left their bones in the jungle work camps. Those that did come back are left today with an understandable sense of bitterness and frustration. They feel that their sacrifice has been forgotten, used as we are to tales of German camps. They claim that while POWs in Germany were enjoying concerts and studying for university courses, they were being systematically beaten, starved and humiliated.

They still hate their captors, although their protest is largely confined to a refusal to buy Japanese cars and stereos. In fairness, however, it has to be pointed out that the Japanese operated under a different code to the rules

of war developed in the Western Christian nations. They tended to treat their own troops just as badly as they treated their prisoners. The officer prisoners usually ate their stomachs open after the surrender, their captors would have held them in the highest esteem.

British historians have for many years tended to pour scorn on the poor performance of the French in 1940. They, too believed that they had a "fortress" as they so confidently behind the Maginot Line, inviting the Germans to invade. However, we built our Maginot Line in Singapore to defend against a Japanese fleet and refused to believe in the possibility of a landborne invasion.

Refusal to face the facts of the necessity for defence planning in peacetime is one of the major defects of all democracies. How can peace-loving Statesmen prepare for war? The age of universal peace had dawned and when they awoke it was too late. It is this rather than any shortcomings of those on the spot which has to be blamed for the fall of Singapore.

Anthony Kemp

The author is the co-author of *The Bitter End, the Fall of Singapore 1941-42*, to be published by Anthony Bird Publications on February 27.

Life begins at seventy

by George Mikes



George Mikes as seen by Nicolas Bentley

holocaust because I have lived long enough and although I would not mind a little longer, if London went up in flames I would like to claim the honour of going up with it.

But if Britain turned fascist — either black or red fascist — that would be an utterly different matter. Then I would like to try to get away, and brood for the rest of my life. Fortunately, in spite of race riots, inner-

city battles, football hooliganism and all the rest, I do not take such a threat at all seriously.

The important question for me is this: is there a conflict between my allegiance to Britain and my love for Hungary? There is not, but it is possible that such a conflict might arise.

The supreme loyalty of an ancient Greek was to his city state; medieval man's loyalty was to his faith; modern man's loyalty was to his nation but can often feel that the primary loyalty belongs to an idea — communism, for example. I, being a child of my times, accept the idea of allegiance to a country — or rather, to two countries.

I am a devout European. I want the whole of Europe to unite into one democratic state. For a long time I believed that I wanted this for solid and logical reasons: Britain, as a little off-shore island, could not survive alone; being insular was absurd; our economic future is bound up with that of the rest of Europe etc etc.

I still think that this is true but now I know that my original conviction — like all convictions — was based on purely personal considerations. If Europe becomes one, if national frontiers disappear, then no conflict

can possibly arise between my allegiances and I will be able to love both my countries with a clear conscience, just as one may love say, Nottingham and Birmingham, or Northumberland and Essex.

Looking back at my life it seems that it has been a long string of anecdotes. Naturally, when I received blows they were blows, and not jokes; but somehow I have forgotten the blows and remember only the pleasant events and the anecdotes. The anecdotes are very important.

Apt and well-told stories are the spice of life and the treasures of a lifetime. I was in Greece with a beautiful and clever girl friend, Eva, Antonis and Eleni Samarkis, he a writer, she a lawyer. Antonis started telling story and Eleni exclaimed: "Oh Antonis, I've heard that one 200 times!"

Then I started a story, and Eva sighed: "God, that one again..." And so it went on. Finally, when Eleni protested why they were blows, and not jokes; but somehow I have forgotten the blows and remember only the pleasant events and the anecdotes. The anecdotes are very important.

Quite. But it is because of all these stories that I am not a more significant writer than I am. Happily, being significant has never really been my ambition — nor

being a proper humorist. Every humorist worth his salt is neurotic, depressed and afflicted with a gastric ulcer. What sort of a humorist is a man who accepts the world as it is (not without a sigh, but accepts it), adjusts to it and enjoys it?

Unlike Malcolm Muggeridge, I do not look forward to death with eager anticipation. He hopes to get to heaven but he may, of course, get the shock of his death by getting nowhere at all. I do not expect to survive in any form or fashion and have no desire to do so. What a horrible place this world would be if all the people ever born were still around. What a burden it would be on the Ministries of Pensions all over the world.

Being born involves the certainty of death. Only those countless millions, the unborn ones, are really safe. They will not die, but neither can they have any fun. I think it is one of the beauties of life that it is not eternal. It would be a frightful bore to go on and on and on, even in reasonable health.

Besides, I am used to being dead. Death is simple non-existence and we are all used to non-existence. I did not exist in 500 BC or in 500 AD or in 1793. Why should I not exist in 2117 or 3117 or any other year?

Death is simply the end of the story. If one is lucky, a good end to a pleasant story. For me, if I am lucky, it will be simply the last anecdote. George Mikes' latest book, *How To Be Seventy*, is published today, his seventieth birthday. André Deutsch at £7.95.

No British passports for Pitcairn

One of Britain's oldest and most remote colonial possessions is in danger of being abandoned because of increasing isolation and indifference by the mother country.

Pitcairn Island, founded in 1790 by Fletcher Christian and fellow mutineers on HMS Bounty, now has only 61 inhabitants, no regular radio contact with the outside world and only three supply ships a year.

And the islanders, of mixed British and Tahitian stock but fervently British in sentiment, have just discovered that the new Nationality Bill has deprived them of their British passports. Whitehall even forgot to invite an islander to the Royal Wedding.

Glyn Christian, a direct descendant of the man who challenged Captain Bligh — and better known in this country as the television cook on the BBC's *Pebble Mill* at One — has now launched a campaign to save his ancestral home from extinction. The islanders, who are governed by a high commissioner resident in New Zealand, only have morse code contact with the outside world for 10 minutes a day. In 1850 47 whaling ships called in at Pitcairn but now only northbound ships from New Zealand stop there.

Glyn Christian, who is calling for a satellite radio link, a landing strip and a bit more interest from the Foreign Office,

believes that £2m pounds will need to be raised privately if the last British colony in the South Pacific is to be saved.

Des. Res., USA

Two executives from the New York headquarters of Sotheby's auctioneers are in London today to argue that "desirable properties and houses of character often cost less in the USA". Among the names to conjure with they quote in their list of satisfied clients is "John De Lorean, the motor car manufacturer", who last year bought a 430-acre farm in New Jersey.

An Independent Broadcasting Authority report notes that some local BBC stations have developed a strong tradition of minority and access programmes, "so much so that one producer sometimes regarded BBC local radio as 'appealing only to a blind, bell-ringing, deaf, canal-loving member of a women's institute'."

Under-booked

You might not have noticed, but Frank Delaney's edition of *Friday Night Saturday Morning* on BBC 2 this weekend was supposed to be a sharp reminder to the Beeb that there is a bookish audience it is shamefully neglecting. "It is a national scandal that there is no regular television programme about books", Delaney protested. BBC 2 dropped Read

THE TIMES DIARY

Appropriately Sir Billy Butlin, the holiday camp magnate, has the jolliest and most visited of graves. The bouncy fellow was a motif on all Butlin's stationery.

Butlin, who died in 1980, is buried in St John's cemetery, Jersey. The tomb, which holds 10, has a headstone with carvings depicting an amusement

All about it, which achieved audiences of 3m to 4m. Delaney, whose Radio 4 *Bookshelf* raised 6,000 inquiries for a first novel competition in one week, says he also got 120 letters from a single six-minute spot on *Pebble Mill* devoted to poetry. "People are starving for lack of coverage of literature", he claims.

Anthony Burgess, one of Delaney's guests, has none the less succeeded in selling well over 500,000 copies of *Earthly Powers* internationally. How is it that English fiction sells so well without TV backing? "The dimension people have missed", Burgess told PHS, "is that the English really have had a good time in the past in which they have produced a considerable body of fiction of outstanding worth. It may be a symptom of a sick society. The first Elizabethan age had a roaring inflation, worse than we have ever known, caused by gold from the New World, and they got Shakes-

The plaque will be unveiled on Sunday by Gill's publisher, Douglas Cleverdon.

Van Lennep again?

Disagreement on the choice of a new secretary general for the Organization For Economic Cooperation and Development could leave member countries no option but to ask Emile Van Lennep to continue in his post, senior OECD diplomats said this weekend.

Van Lennep, aged 67, a former Dutch treasurer-general who has headed the Paris-based OECD since 1969, is scheduled to retire on March 31.

However, with barely six weeks left, permanent representatives of the 24 OECD countries have still to make a unanimous choice. After several months of secret consultations, three candidates are still in the race: former Italian finance minister Filippo Maria Pandolfi, 54, who has the backing of several European states; Staffan Burenstam Linder, 51, a former Swedish minister of commerce, who is supported by five Northern European countries; and Helga Steg, 54, a close aide to West German Economy minister Otto Lamsdorff, who is being championed by the USA and West Germany.

Against the grain

It would be appropriate if the EEC agriculture ministers meeting in Brussels today had rice pudding for lunch.

Barrie Williams, deputy director-general of the Food Manufac-

turers' Federation, says that the EEC's rice regulations put 8p on the price of a pound of round-grain pudding rice in British shops, and 11p on a pound of long-grain.

These are the amounts of levy imposed to protect Italian rice farmers. Williams says the Italians cannot grow enough round-grain rice to satisfy British demand and do not produce proper long-grain rice at all. "They're sticky, sticky stuff," he says, "which might do for risotto but makes heavy going of British curries."

Signs of hope

Gaston Thorn, president of the European Commission, is a Virgo. That is a happy sign for Europe. This is the finding in a secret nine-page report drawn up by Elizabeth Teissier du Cros, a French astrologist, and now released by the commission.

The period between 1981 and 1984, coinciding with Thorn's term of office, "will be a period of profound and even brutal change. It falls to you to deal with it. Fortunately for all of us, you seem to be both an open and a lucid man," the astrologist tells Thorn.

The president has to expect social violence starting on September 21, difficulties from the new moon from October 16, and an unhappy first half of November brought about by the conjunction of Saturn with Pluto. Happy events could occur on March 1 and July 23, while petroleum talks could have a good outcome on March 11.

Animal cunning

Jacques-Marcel Viney, the recently retired chef of the Ritz, honoured with a luncheon last week, had in his time cooked camel, hedgehog, rat and fox. Viney had a hard war, much of it in the deserts of Africa and other camps where prisoners ate what they could catch.

Rat "though dirty as an animal, is perfectly all right if you cut off the head and clean it up thoroughly." Hedgehogs are of two kinds, dog-muzzled and pig-muzzled. "The pig-muzzled are much the better."

The first fox he caught proved devilish hard, but the second he left in snow for two weeks and it was beautifully tender. Mr Viney has cooked camel steaks, too, but even he could not make them sound very alluring.

PHS does not know if British hedgehogs are the pig-muzzled variety Chef Viney prefers, but Major Adrian Coles has just launched the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. The major says he met an overhelmsman response when he brought about the formation of a Council to fit hedgehog ramps to cattle grids. "People wrote to me from all over Britain and the world."

PHS

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

REASONABLE PEOPLE

No political party is at its best when debating its own constitution. In that respect the Social Democrats have shown themselves to be representatives of the old rather than the new politics at their constitutional convention in Kensington this weekend. The proceedings were not always so smooth as the conclusions so clear as the party would have wished. One of the characteristics of a Social Democrat seems to be a penchant for a point of order.

The difficulty can be attributed partly to the nature of the proceedings. All parties tend to become bogged down in wordy debate when deciding how to govern themselves, and one should not be surprised that the SDP failed to be an exception to this law. But part of the trouble was also that the Social Democrats did not appreciate that a clear line needs to be drawn between the function of a constitution and a statement of policy.

So the draft constitution presented to the convention tried to do too much. A particular case in point was the attempt to secure a fair role for women in the party. Had the convention been asked to approve the proposition that it would be desirable to have more women in the House of Commons and in positions of power and influence in the SDP there could be no doubt that there would have been overwhelming, probably unanimous, approval: the impression was confirmed at Kensington that Social Democrats are reasonable, enlightened and mostly middle-class people. The difficulty arose over the attempt to express a generally

accepted sentiment as to what should happen into precise rules as to what must happen.

While there was a clear majority for giving women a minimum number of places on short lists for parliamentary candidates, the sticking point for the convention was the proposal that women should have half the places on the Council for Social Democracy, which is to have the principal responsibility for party policy. The final tie, with 150 votes on each side, represented a deadlock between attachment to the principle of sexual equality and a fear of the party tying itself down with excessive regulation.

The issue will now be resolved in a ballot of all SDP Members. As with most questions concerning the internal processes of a political party, what matters most is that whatever rule is adopted should be generally acceptable, or at least adopted by generally acceptable methods. The ballot is therefore a wise provision. In casting their votes, though, the members might reflect that rigid stipulations of this sort usually work well when there is a very wide measure of agreement on them. Otherwise there will soon develop a frustration within those areas which feel that they are precluded from being represented on the national council as they would prefer.

The other principal issue that will be determined by a ballot is how the parliamentary leader should be elected. The members will be given three choices: election by the parliamentary party; by all members of the party now, but by the parliamentary party

after the next general election; and by all members of the party with a compulsory review after three years. There was a majority at the convention for the third of these choices.

If this is the preference of SDP members it will be a perfectly reasonable decision. A strong case can be made for extending party democracy as far as possible in the belief that this is the best safeguard against the excessive influence of small cliques of activists — that evil from so many Social Democratic politicians suffered during their years in the Labour Party. But this would not be the best method of electing the leader because fellow MPs have the best opportunity of judging who would be most adequately fitted to bear the strains and trials of office. Nor would election by the whole membership be the method preferred by the steering committee.

It was significant that the convention was not prepared to be swayed by the steering committee on this question. This was one of a number of occasions over the weekend when it was apparent that the SDP will not be so amenable to central direction as many people have supposed. It has been fashionable up to now to contrast the sometimes unruly democracy of the Liberals with the greater order maintained by the Social Democrats. But it may well be that this weekend will be remembered not for the detailed decisions on the constitution but for the first strong evidence that local Social Democrats have more of a mind of their own than their leaders will always find convenient.

THE BEST ASSAD WE HAVE

Reports from Syria of opposition to the regime of President Assad need to be treated with caution. But the State Department — accused by Damascus of "exaggeration" — is probably not far wide of the mark in its assessment of events in Hama and other towns. The Muslim Brotherhood has clearly staged a show of force so impressive that even massive government counter-action has apparently still not wiped out resistance.

Armed opposition by the fundamentalist Brotherhood has been persistent and well organized over a period of years, and the Assad regime has had to resort to random and bloody terror in an effort to root it out. With Muslim fundamentalism infecting the armed forces — his own power base — President Assad has had to rely on the notorious "special brigades" commanded by his brother Rifaat. Judging by reports of an abortive coup last month, disaffection extends to officers of the minority Alawite sect — from which the Syrian elite is drawn — who are alarmed by the scale and intensity of Sunni anti-Alawite feeling.

There is a temptation to argue that since President Assad has adopted a radical stand in the Arab world and is in formal alliance with the

Soviet Union, his departure from the scene might ease matters. In fact, the reverse is almost certainly the case. The Muslim Brotherhood — despite its theoretical adherence to democracy — is an underground terrorist organization, strictly hierarchical and conspiratorial. Its declared aim is to establish a fundamentalist Islamic state. The thought of another Khomeini in Damascus — albeit a Sunni rather than Shi'ite one — is enough to send shivers up Arab as well as Western spines. The probable alternative — a regime dedicated to the total elimination of the Brotherhood — is equally unpalatable, since it would involve ruthlessness and cruelty surpassing even that of the present regime.

This leaves President Assad clinging to power, but through methods which are just this side of civil war, and have effectively crippled him as a political force on the Middle East stage. His record shows him to be a man of straightforward dealing and statesmanlike behaviour; very far from the doctrinaire radical some imagine him to be. There are indications that, if circumstances allowed, President Assad might revert to the position he had gradually worked round to in 1977,

before Camp David, and consider the terms of an accommodation with Israel.

As long as the Assad regime is precarious, neither Israel nor the moderate Arab states can expect much beyond negative and obstructive tactics from Damascus. The danger is that Israel, seeing Syria not only torn by internal unrest but also at odds with its Arab neighbours, Jordan and Iraq, might take advantage of Syrian weakness to launch a large scale invasion of Southern Lebanon, with the aim of eliminating Palestinian bases, on the assumption that the Arabs will remain as impotent on this as on the Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights.

If Jerusalem is making such calculations, it should think again. No Israeli operation can ever wipe out the Palestinians in Lebanon, which has in any case suffered enough. And there is no guarantee that Syria, however overstretched, would not respond militarily. On the contrary, might not a defensive and insecure President Assad feel obliged to prove his strength by launching the attack on Israel his detractors in Syria have long accused him of wishing to avoid at all costs?

a dangerous beast to travel in any political party's entourage.

Looking back over SDP's first year, we can accept that Mr Roy Jenkins and the rest caught a widespread public and Fleet Street mood created by the failure of the Government to fulfil the expectations of 1979, and no less by the failure of Labour to provide evidence that it could be trusted as the alternative government. The Liberal genes in British politics are latent, but the Liberal Party had failed electorally so often that it offered no chance of Parliamentary growth. In such circumstances a fourth national party, even if it was old wine in new bottles and labelled Premier Cru, had its attractions for a fresh story for the media to tell excitedly and as a solution to the problems of voters who wanted to register a protest against either Conservatives or Labour.

No matter that the SDP had no settled policies. No matter that it had no Moses as leader. No matter that it had no constituency. No matter that its membership was fairly small and scattered, and pretty middle-class and of socialist leanings. No matter that it had no constituency organization to speak of, and no candidates except for Labour renegades. All these missing elements in the prospectus would be filled in with the passing of time, and on the day after the next general election no voter needed to doubt that there would be a leader waiting for the summons from Buckingham Palace.

That was almost exactly what a public mood required during 1981. Settled policies? As Mr Jenkins saw on his retreat from specialism cut and dried from a usually turned out to be millstones, and it was better to be Asquithian and broadly say that SDP would do what was necessary when it was necessary while being consistently minded, right minded, and marvellously

civilized. And the leadership: who should choose and who would it be? That question could go into the pending tray, along with anything else that was troublesome or against the grain of the public relations image.

Granted the growing public mood, the next move had a touch of genius. Mr David Steel, the Liberal Leader, had for a long time been convinced that his party stood no chance of power without a coalition, and he had persuaded it into yet another fateful coalition, if he could squeeze from anybody the necessary bargain of a commitment to bring in proportional representation. So Mr Jenkins, moving off Scotland, made a deal with Mr Steel, who was a radical Liberal moving towards Socialism, or at any rate towards Socialist causes. The Alliance was born, and came into the world with less screaming and kicking than might have been thought likely. Mr Steel had gained a lot of Indian chiefs with an unknown number of Indians; Mr Jenkins and the Limehouse Gang had gained a lot of Indians in the constituency to justify the chiefs' feathers they wore. It must be admitted the bargain struck was satisfactory at first to both sides at the top, if not lower down in the Liberal Party. We now begin to see, though, all the gerrymandering that accompanies any coalition; and if ever the Alliance forms a government the in-fighting will commit political reporters to recording a king of pornography seven days each week that may get them hailed before the Press Council.

There are times when I suspect of hope that Mr Jenkins is having fun and paying off old scores, now he is back from Brussels, over sixty, and financially fancy free. Nevertheless, in a spirit of Beaverbrookian mischief even I should like to see him win the Glasgow by-election, so long as he promises not to turn up in the Commons wearing the kilt in a fashionable cut.

Easing the burden of taxation

From Sir William Clark, MP for Croydon South (Conservative) and Mr Michael Grylls, MP for Surrey North West (Conservative)

Sir, Much of the discussion about opportunities for tax cuts open to the Chancellor in the Budget has oversimplified the issues.

The choice is not between help for business through cuts in the National Insurance surcharge and help for individuals through income tax cuts. The Chancellor needs a package which maximizes economic efficiency and stimulus to industry of the limited funds available, whilst improving incentives for individual taxpayers to work, save and invest. Equally important is the need to provide clear evidence to workers who have faced creeping tax increases in the past year, that they will receive a fair share of the rewards of better monetary control, lower pay settlements, improved productivity and company profitability.

These criteria point strongly towards easing the income tax burden on individuals as the Chancellor's immediate priority. But commerce and industry would benefit significantly from such a change.

Economic growth and new employment are increasingly found in the self-employed and small-firm sector. Income tax cuts would be of direct assistance there. Many owners of businesses, especially retailers, find lack of consumer demand and orders a more immediate problem than property, wage or material costs. Consumer spending power is the most effective means of allocating resources to business. Some spending will go on imports, especially from other EEC States,

but progressive British firms fully accept this as a corollary of the huge home market in Europe they now enjoy.

Income tax cuts now would serve two vital purposes. First, they would put resources back with the consumer, whose economic decisions are most likely to determine business success and foster growth economy. There spending will provide extra orders needed by firms which have survived recession so far.

Second, a cut in income tax would show every voter that the policies of the Government are succeeding. Ministers have often said that putting the economy right was a 10-year task and this point has not escaped the business community. We believe the re-election of a Conservative government is vital to the survival of the free enterprise system, the prosperity of business, and the standard of living of everyone.

Although we regard Labour's infamous "payroll tax" as wrong in principle and look forward to its eventual abolition, a cut in NIS would grant a large unearned benefit to the inefficient, extravagant public sector.

We are very aware of the electoral support in 1979 for the Chancellor's declared target of reducing the standard rate to 25p in the pound by the end of this parliament. That objective would be impossible to achieve without a reduction on March 9.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM CLARK, Chairman,
Finance Committee,
MICHAEL GRYLLES, Chairman,
Industry Committee,
House of Commons,
February 10.

Lead in petrol

From Mr L. Raphael

Sir, The reports on lead in petrol published in *The Times* this week (February 8) together with your leading article (February 9) have drawn conclusions which are not substantiated by the facts.

Members of Parliament have quoted erroneous statements which grossly distort the picture.

No country at present uses exclusively lead-free petrol. The USA has made available unleaded petrol, but it is also the largest manufacturer of tetraethyl lead, used only for raising the octane number of petrol, and most of its production for the domestic market.

The USSR claims that unleaded petrol is sold in its major cities, but imports large quantities of tetraethyl lead to supplement its own manufacture. It is completely naive to imagine that lead can be eliminated from petrol overnight. West Germany upgrades its low-lead petrol (0.15 g/litre) by importing high-octane components, which would not be immediately available if all EEC countries followed the same route. Refinery processes in the United States differ from those in Europe and high-octane components supply about half the domestic market to boost unleaded petrol. A barrel of crude oil has its limitations; more high-octane petrol means other products go short.

No one will dispute that lead is toxic and can seriously damage health. The relationship between IQ and lead in the blood do not confirm that the subjects have absorbed lead from car exhaust fumes. Lead smelters, old paint and lead pipes for water supply are all sources of contamination. Natives in New Guinea, far from being affected by motor cars, were found to have blood with higher lead levels than Europeans.

Chemical weapons

From Sir Philip Goodhart, MP for Bromley, Beckenham (Conservative)

Sir, In your leading article, "Chemical arsenals" (February 10) you say that "there are no reliable estimates of the Soviet capability" as far as chemical warfare is concerned.

Our latest information in this field is classified, but it is well known that the Russian have stockpiled more than 115,000 tons of chemical weapons. This stockpile includes tens of thousands of tons of poison gas shells which are ready for immediate use. We know that they are pressing ahead with their researches on improved forms of nerve gas and blister gas, and have more than 70,000 specially trained chemical troops deployed with their forces on the Central Front. As there is no effective NATO chemical capability, these 70,000 Soviet specialists are obviously deployed to

disseminate and then neutralize Russian gases.

As far as chemical warfare is concerned, this country disarmed unilaterally soon after the end of World War II, and, as you say, the United States abandoned the manufacture of chemical weapons in 1969. Any surviving American stockpiles are deteriorating rapidly and, as you point out, "will shortly become more dangerous to their potential aggressors". I have never been able to understand why so many people in Europe seem to think that unilateral nuclear disarmament by the West will produce a sympathetic response on the part of the Soviet authorities, when there is clear proof in the past decade that unilateral chemical disarmament by NATO has merely provoked an increase in Soviet stockpiles and chemical capability.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP GOODHART,
House of Commons.

Stalemate in Cyprus

From Mr John Mylonas

Sir, Mr O. F. Mufticade (February 5) makes the point that Greece must follow Turkey's example and make efforts to find an honourable agreement in Cyprus. In my knowledge, the Greek effort on behalf of Turkey for such a solution consist of the following:

1. The invasion of Cyprus in 1974 with the intention as expressed by the then Prime Minister of "restoring the Constitution".
2. Occupation of 40 per cent of the island and the expulsion of one third of the population of Cyprus.
3. Transporting thousands of mainland Turks to the occupied area to boost the Turkish numbers.
4. Declaring the constitution dead and demanding the creation of a federated state with separate administrations.
5. Ignoring all UN resolutions calling for the withdrawal of the invading army and the return of all refugees to their homes.

6. Failing after more than seven years to reduce the size of the occupied area to anywhere near their numerical proportion, which is 18 per cent.

7. Demanding as the price of withdrawal an equal share in any future federal government.

If this is a show of Turkey's good will it would seem that it is only good will towards the minority. It is a pity that such good will is not extended to the Kurdish minority in Turkey. They form the same proportion of the total, have absolutely no rights as a community, and hundreds are in jail for daring to say they are Kurds.

Finally Mr Mufticade rebukes *The Times* for not being factual, something with which I must agree. He signs his letter as the representative of the Turkish Federated State of Cyprus. To my knowledge no such state is recognized by the UN, this country or any other international organization.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MYLONAS,
Burleigh Gardens, N14,
February 6.

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JOHN MYLONAS,
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Judgment implications on fares subsidy

From the Leader of the Greater London Council

Sir, In recent weeks the question of fares for London Transport has received much attention. Unfortunately there remains a genuine confusion over the real meaning of the law lords' judgment, in part a consequence of obfuscation by Government.

According to eminent counsel, whose opinion we sought, the judgment can only mean that all subsidy to LT — not just for fares — has to be avoided, if it is practicable to do so. As a consequence, fares must be raised, and services curtailed, until subsidy has been reduced to a minimum.

The Secretary of State for Transport is attempting to convey a different impression. He says that it is reasonable to permit subsidy to avoid further high fares increases. He says that the doubling of fares on March 21 is needed as a price to pay for the GLC's transport policy since May 1981. On the first point, we can only agree. However, if he means it, he should legislate for it, as his statement as it stands contradicts the law lords. On the second point, he is just plain wrong. The doubling of fares is required solely to meet the new legal requirements prescribed by the lords. The cheap fares

appreciated by Londoners since October 4 will be paid for by a once-for-all payment from the rates. The better services that we ran (what Mr Howell in his "newspaper" calls high cost, policies) cost only a tiny fraction of the sum to be raised by the fares increase.

Ever-increasing fares and ever-reducing services are a recipe for disaster; not just for passengers, but also for employers, workers, car drivers and London's residents, who face congestion, delays, high costs and pollution.

Mr Howell once said that our cheap fares policy was "fatally flawed" because of the burden on the rates. His concern has to be set against the fact that his own Government increased this burden by 60 per cent by penalising our spending.

The GLC wants no additional government funds, only an end to penalties on London's ratepayers. All we want is the right to return to the position that prevailed from 1969 until the judgment, when all parties in Government and at the GLC believed that fares subsidies were legal, subject to the wishes of the London electorate.

Yours sincerely,
KEN LIVINGSTONE,
Members' Lobby,
The County Hall, SE1.

Girls' borstal problems

From Miss A. E. Mace

Sir, The pressure group, "Keep Out," has now joined in highlighting (report, February 10) the particular problems relating to Bullwood Hall borstal, Essex, which I can only agree has one of the most difficult and disturbed populations in the whole of the penal system.

A high level of tension, stress and psychiatric disturbance contributes to a degree of violence which markedly affects the future outlook for young women serving sentences there, and makes working conditions extremely tough for all staff, in whatever role they are employed.

In fourteen years of experience in the Probation and After-Care Service in various parts of the country I have entered no more depressing, sad, or occasionally frightening, institution than Bullwood Hall. When the Governor of HM Prison, Wormwood Scrubs, drew attention to the degrading conditions in many penal institutions I was concerned that the issue about conditions in custody should not become too narrowly focused on problems of dereliction and squalor when we also need to give attention to the destructive and hopeless environment prevailing in more modern young offender institutions where overcrowding, under-staffing and lack of any opportunity to carry through a purposeful daily routine means that these institutions can achieve in a short time the

perpetuation of a supply of penal dustbin-liners for the future.

Youth custody sentences should surely only be imposed when a young offender is a danger to society or demonstrably unwilling, or unable, to respond to non-custodial alternatives.

These criteria would apply to some who reach the Bullwood Hall "end of the line". They would not apply to the majority whose future outlook is less hopeful as a result of the time they are incarcerated here in a remote part of Essex cut off from families, relatives and the community in which they have ultimately to try and re-establish themselves and lead socially acceptable lives.

I support planned closure of Bullwood Hall borstal in its present role as the only secure custodial regime for 21 year old females in this country, its replacement by community-based or hospital provision for many of the girls who are presently received there, and the establishment of custodial provision on a regional basis for those girls who do need secure containment whilst they are helped towards rehabilitation.

Yours faithfully,
ANNE E. MACE,
Chief Probation Officer,
Probation and After-Care Service,
Central Office,
Market Buildings,
Chelmsford Road,
Chelmsford,
Essex.

Victims of rape

From Dr Robin Moffat

Sir, May I comment upon the helpful letter from Mrs Raine Roberts concerning the fate of victims of sexual offences (February 9)? During twenty-five years police practice in London I have never sensed an "accusatory atmosphere" in the police station where rape victims are seen. In most cases the victim is asked to choose a male or female doctor and what is often a pleasant examination in the surgeon's room at the police station or in the doctor's own surgery. Modern stations have specially equipped rooms for this purpose.

I entirely agree that experience is essential but it takes time to acquire. Many Trust members medical practitioners their right to gain the necessary expertise would be a very short-sighted policy. Many victims come forward and receive a lengthy, sympathetic hearing plus a medical examination from doctors of both sexes and long may this continue. Special units are not the answer to this problem and, truth to tell, some victims prefer to seek counselling and after-care from male general practitioners.

I am, Sir, yours sincerely,
ROBIN MOFFAT,
Metropolitan Police Surgeon,
10 Harley Street, W1,
February 9.

Canal responsibility

From Mr John Gagg

Sir, Thank you for mentioning the sorry story of the Stratford-upon-Avon Canal (February 9), revealing that the National Trust is seeking to be rid of its ownership. Many Trust members will feel that it is acting with some irresponsibility. The once derelict canal was restored in a remarkable voluntary operation in 1964, and taken over by the Trust. Since then it has become a source of pleasure to untold numbers of people, afloat, afoot, and angling, part of a delightful "Avon Ring" of waterways.

The Trust must have been well aware of the likely maintenance costs, and it has never been short of expert, voluntary, labour. Moreover, fees from boats must have exceeded all forecasts. It is beyond belief, therefore, that it now wishes to discard this unique part of its property. It has many other possessions, some much like others. It has only one canal — this fine route to Stratford. It would be unforgivable to cast it aside, and Trust members and the public alike should resist this unfortunate move.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GAGG,
Shootacre House,
Princes Risborough,
Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire,
February 11.

Productivity deals

From Mr J. K. Morland

Sir, It is astonishing that no reporter of the present dispute between British Rail and Aslef has drawn attention to what actually happened in similar circumstances in the United States.

In that country the featherbedding tactics of the powerful rail unions were a major factor in the spectacular bankruptcies of giant companies such as the New York Central and Pennsylvania Railroads. On the other hand the much smaller Florida East Coast Railway, which in 1962 successfully combated a particularly vicious strike with great courage, achieved productivity deals that enabled it to bring itself into one of the world's most modern and efficient railways with correspondingly high moral amongst its employees.

Yours faithfully,
J. K. MORLAND,
Chartwell House,
Punchbowl Lane,
Dorking,
February 11.

The mirror of wit

From Professor J. Gwyn Griffiths

Sir, In his instructive article on the "new Cairo style" under President Mubarak, Christopher Walker (February 5) states that "at the last count, one academic researcher had already noted 216 new anti-Sadat jokes which have been circulating since his death". He adds a suggestion that Mr Mubarak has so far achieved a very low or nil score.

"Joke" wonders whether the "joke test" really provides a good indication. Towards the end of President Nasser's regime I spent a very happy year as guest professor at the University of Cairo, and I recall that there were jokes galore about Nasser. Often their setting was eucharological ("When Nasser reached the Gate of Pearl...") and there were quips relating to his vast authority and ubiquitous presence. During later visits I heard plenty of jokes about Sadat too, although his rule began with a show of greater tolerance.

It is in any case too early to apply the test to President Mubarak. Mr Walker rightly refers to jokes as "a form of political safety valve", and forthright criticism should not always be forgotten is that Egyptians have a very rich sense of humour which is sometimes given highly sophisticated expression.

Yours sincerely,
J. GWYN GRIFFITHS,
Department of Classics and Ancient History,
University College,
Singleton Park,
Swansea.

David Wood

Skirl of the bagpipes for Mr Jenkins

On the Biblical principle that all that take the sword shall perish with the sword, so it could prove that all they who live by public relations shall perish by publicity. Certainly the Social Democratic Party, after a remarkable year that has added precious column inches to its stature, now begins to take a few bruising knocks from the media it courted and got courted by.

In one or two opinion polls its brand share of the electoral market has begun to slump, as the two main parties recover a little ground. Last week in the Commons much like the dear old Liberal Party of yesteryear, the SDP Group managed to split three ways over the Tebbitt Bill to put the trade unions back under a mild curb of law, and in Kensington Town Hall over the weekend men who all over the drafting of their own constitution.

A cliché that has served every journalist at some time in his life may be adapted to serve again: not quite the honeymoon but rather the love affair between SDP and the media seems to be ending.

SDP is no longer a novelty, no longer David challenging Goliath. Unless the Gang of Four can keep winning a by-election now and then, unless they can show a few times each week that they are genuinely different from the old parties, then they will become a bore; and a journalist bored to distraction and denied his story is



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 14: Miss Elizabeth Cuthbert had the honour of being received by the Queen when Her Majesty visited her with the insignia of a Member of the Royal Victorian Order (Fifth Class).

Mr William Baker had the honour of being received by the Queen when Her Majesty visited her with the insignia of a Member of the Royal Victorian Order (Fifth Class).

Mr Charles Tack had the honour of being received by the Queen when Her Majesty visited her with the insignia of a Member of the Royal Victorian Order (Fifth Class).

The Duke of Edinburgh, patron and trustee, will preside at a meeting of the trustees of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Trimble Windmills and the new conference centre in Harrogate and will address the conference of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds at York University on March 26.

Princess Anne will attend the 40th anniversary celebrations of the granting of a royal charter to Maidenhead, Berkshire, on March 8.

Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips will attend a lively dinner of the Carman's Company at the Mansion House on March 9.

A memorial service for Lady Hartwell will be held at St Margaret's, Westminster, on Tuesday, February 23, at noon.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. L. Berridge, RE, and Miss A. M. Woolrich. The engagement is announced between Mr Richard Berridge, son of Mr and Mrs H. A. Berridge, of Emsworth, Hampshire, and Miss Mary Woolrich, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. S. Woolrich, of Warlington, Hampshire.

Lieutenant-Commander T. H. Boycott, RN, and Miss C. H. Holmes. The engagement is announced between Mr Timothy Boycott, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Boycott, of the Brass Sykes, Stokesley, North Yorkshire, and Caroline Holmes, daughter of Mr Peter Holmes, of the Old Rectory, Shotesham All Saints, Norfolk, and the late Mrs Diana Holmes.

Mr N. R. Graham and Miss H. J. F. De Salis. The engagement is announced between Mr Nigel Graham, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Graham, of Plaster Pitts, Ripon, Yorkshire, and Miss Helen De Salis, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jerome De Salis, of Bourne House, East Woodhay, Newbury.

Mr A. Hewitt and Miss J. Coles. The engagement is announced between Mr Andrew Hewitt, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Hewitt, of the late Dr P. Hewitt, of Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, and Miss Josephine Coles, only daughter of Mr R. F. C. Coles, of the late Mrs A. W. Coles, of Lower Hewood Farm, South Chard, Somerset.

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The closed circuit of converts

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Falling numbers make news; stable or gently rising numbers do not, confirming no doubt the general impression in the Church of England that the media have a stubbornly negative cast of mind. The latest statistical compilation from Church House, Westminster, shows the church in a stable state, losing a little here and gaining a little there; but only if there is an unusual undercurrent to this trend, or lack of trend, is the situation likely to be remarked upon.

The truth appears to be that the Church of England has sufficiently recovered from the disease that was eating at its base in the population, to safeguard its healthy survival for one more generation. But a plateau, while a relief from a slope downwards, is its own kind of trap. A symptom of the syndrome which has had much condescension and a little mockery poured on it, is to be debated by the General Synod of the Church of England this week. A plateau is a bad moment for such a debate, for the church was manifestly more alive with fertile ideas when it was under the pressure of falling numbers.

From a fair amount of

Christian comfort in the knowledge that the church is there, irritation if anyone tries to change it, and back-of-the-mind belief in a vague duty-figure who is not very interesting or interested except for a slightly peculiar minority who are "religious". The new fashion is to detect hitherto unseen virtues in it, particularly the "raison d'être" it gives the professional churchman. This relationship between the "C of E" majority and the Church of England minority is the new form of Establishment, the special tie between church and people that was once seen primarily in legal and constitutional bonds.

It is this that has been challenged by the Partners in Mission report on the church, in which outsiders of various nationalities and persuasions have delivered their verdict that the Church of England is not a success. Their report, which has had much condescension and a little mockery poured on it, is to be debated by the General Synod of the Church of England this week. A plateau is a bad moment for such a debate, for the church was manifestly more alive with fertile ideas when it was under the pressure of falling numbers.

From a fair amount of

recent research and theorizing, it seems to have been established that the Church of England, like the Free Churches and the Church of Scotland, has a core of active members that is surrounded, so to speak, by a penumbra, a constituency larger than the core, from which future active members are most likely to be drawn. There is a fair amount of traffic between the core and the penumbra, in both directions, as some people decide for whatever reason that "church" is now deserving of their attention, and some decide that it is no longer so. The statistics, by and large, reflect the state of this traffic.

It also appears to be the case that outside the penumbra is the great mass of people, folk, religionists or not, for whom the possibility of church membership never seriously arises. The penumbra population has a relationship with the church from previous habit, from family connexion or tradition, or from social class. The rest have had no experience of the church at all.

It is this large remainder who are left untouched by any change in statistics, trends, and whose neglect by the church is in various

respects criticized by the Partners in Mission consultants.

This is not a peculiarly Anglican problem, and the Roman Catholic Church has a far more severe attack of it. The Free Churches, particularly the Baptist and Evangelical churches, do seem to be more successful at making first-generation members, though they may be drawing from someone else's penumbra, particularly from the Church of England's.

A genuine increase in the strength of the church, Anglican or another, would involve a flow of members outside the penumbra, the genuine breaking of new ground. There is little argument about how this could be done, or what sort of church might be able to do it. Folk religion would be a force in opposition to such a development, for it ratifies the present static relationships. And a vast flow into the core from beyond the edge of the shadow could well be accompanied by an actual loss, accompanied in turn by annual headlines as the heads are counted and found to be fewer, and as the penumbra expands with former churchgoers repelled by the changes.



Branching out: Mr Sheppy in his apple orchard.

Wine of the apple from the roadside

Richard Sheppy is one of England's smaller cider makers, but last year 40,000 people visited his "château" near Taunton, Somerset, and bought thousands of gallons of acclaimed "wine of the apple" (Craig Seton writes).

Mr Sheppy's father and grandfather produced cider on a small scale in the West Country but it was the huge queue of holidaymakers heading into Devon and Cornwall each summer that persuaded him to turn his farm at Bradford-on-Tone into something approaching a brewery.

"When my father died I closed down the cider part of the farm, but I got fed up with the holidaymakers cluttering up the road outside and decided I had better sell them something," he said.

So he built a hut at the side of the road and sold Sheppy's cider to thousands of tourists, although the construction of a by-pass around Taunton and the opening of the M5 nearly destroyed his growing trade.

Now his business is booming. Word of mouth has ensured an increasing custom, and last week Mr Sheppy's sweet bottled cider came first in a

tasting organized by *The Sunday Times Magazine*. Moreover, his full-bodied dry cider came sixth and his medium ninth.

While large cider makers enjoy increasing commercial success, small producers still supply the most traditional brew, according to connoisseurs. There are about ten cider makers of the size of Mr Sheppy's business but they produce less than 5 per cent of the cider made in England.

Despite his success, Mr Sheppy employs only two people full-time. He has about 40 acres of what he considers the best cider apples and presses about 600 tons of Sharps, Bitters, and Sweet's each year.

Mr Sheppy, who drinks his cider from a wine glass rather than a pint mug, says: "I consider my farm rather like a small chateau of the type you get in France, where the wines are superb and the only way you will find them is to go to the area."

"I sell directly to my customers on my farm and I see myself as a promoter of quality."

Papal visit 'poses no threats'

From Our Correspondent

Liverpool

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool appealed yesterday for Christian harmony during the Pope's visit to Britain. The Most Rev Derek Worlock, during a civic Mass in the city's Roman Catholic cathedral, spoke of the Pope as a "bridge-builder" and denied that his visit posed any threat.

Liverpool has an active Orange Lodge and opposition to the papal visit is very strong. The lodge has issued a booklet stating why the Pope should not be welcomed to Britain, and late last year a group of Orangemen held an unofficial service at the Anglican cathedral in protest at the visit.

The archbishop said: "To any who regard the Pope's visit as a threat, let me plead with them outstretched for peace and reconciliation."

Birthdays today

From Our Correspondent

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Miss Claire Bloom, the actress, who is 51.

Sir Max Aitken, 72; Sir Harold Beiler, 72; Sir Robert Brown, 76; Sir Arthur de la Mare, 68; Mr Justice Drake, 59; Mr Frank Dunlop, 55; Mr Paul Ferris, 53; Sir Douglas Howard, 85; His Honour, Christopher Humphreys, 81; Miss Diana Jones, 32; the Earl of Mar and Kellie, 61; Professor Hugh Seton-Watson, 66; Sir Walter Stansfield, 65; Sir Adrian Swift, 50; Sir George Taylor, 78; Dr C. Templeman, 68; Professor Sir Harold Thompson, 74; the Right Rev W. Woods, 68.

£30,000 spire

The spire of a village church at Eves, near Peterborough, which was gutted by a German fighter aircraft during daylight attack in 1940, is to be replaced at a cost of £30,000.

Arabian oryx in the wild

Ten Arabian oryx, a species of desert antelope, have become the first of their kind for a decade to roam wild in their native habitat in central Oman, the World Wildlife Fund has announced.

The oryx had until this week been kept in large enclosures

at the World Wildlife Fund's reserve in the Sultanate of Oman. The oryx had until this week been kept in large enclosures

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OBITUARY

MISS ANNE SHAW

Personnel management and work study

Baroness Sear writes: Miss Anne Shaw, CBE, (Mrs J. H. Pirie), who died on February 4, was born in 1904. She was the daughter of David Shaw, killed in action with the 6th Camerounians in 1915, and Helen B. Shaw who, despite the problems of being a widow with two small children, became the Unionist MP for Bothwell, Lanarkshire. Anne, who did not inherit her mother's politics, certainly did inherit the grit and ability of her parents.

She was educated at St Leonard's School, St Andrew's, and at Edinburgh University where she studied mathematics, psychology and social science. In 1927, with a postgraduate scholarship, she studied at Bryn Mawr College, Philadelphia, and subsequently worked under Lilian Gilbreth, a psychologist and management consultant, better known outside industrial circles as the heroine of the film *Cheaper by the Dozen*.

Superbly trained, competent and confident, Anne Shaw returned to the United Kingdom where in 1930 she became Chief Supervisor of Women and Motion Study Investigator at Metropolitan Vickers where she introduced Motion Study to a young woman in the pre-war engineering industry.

Her exceptional abilities were recognized outside her own organization and in 1942 she was invited by Sir Stafford Cripps, then Minister of Aircraft Production, to be a member of his small Production Efficiency Board with Special Responsibility.

It is hard to believe that this remarkable career started over 50 years ago. In her emphasis on the inter-relationship between the content of work and the worker, she anticipated much contemporary thinking.

As if this were not enough for one lifetime, in 1937 she married Jack Pirie, an engineer, who survives her. She has one son and two daughters.

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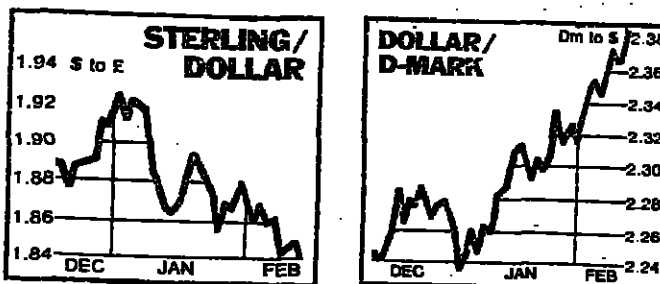
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BUSINESS NEWS

Gains for dollar



The dollar strengthened throughout the world last week as worries grew about United States interest rates. Against the pound it went up 95 points by close on Friday and against the German mark 2.1 pence compared to its close on Friday February 5. Widespread hostility to President Reagan's budget proposals and the government deficits they involve has raised the worries over interest rates, which could rise to keep money supply under control.

£25m Swan Hunter order

Swan Hunter Shipbuilders on the Tyne has won an order worth about £25m to build a 42,000 tonne cargo container carrier for Lombard Maritime, London, a company owned by Lombard North Central PLC, which is part of the National Westminster Bank Group. On completion in the third quarter of 1983, the vessel will be chartered to Leif Hoegh (UK). It will be built at Wallsend Shipyard.

Textile slump 'is over'

The slump in British textile production is over, stockbrokers Phillips & Drew say in their review of the industry published today. The upturn will be very hesitant during the first half of this year, the review says, but it should gather pace during the second half as consumer demand picks up.

Industry 'coped well in slump'

British industry coped surprisingly well with the first half of the recession, according to the Industrial Performance Analysis published today by ICC Business Ratios and based on the performance of 12,000 public and private companies during the 3½ years to the end of 1980.

Despite squeezed profits and liquidity problems, "in aggregate terms the results were very encouraging", the report says. Companies reacted quickly to deteriorating trading conditions by cutting output to match demand and cutting costs to cope with cash-flow problems. The most disappointing feature of the report is that it disproves analysts' generally associated with trade statistics, which often stated that companies were exporting more because of the depressed home market. "Almost all industry sectors reduced their exports in terms of historic values as a percentage of sales", the report says.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Profit leap for Lloyds

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 570.5
FT 100 Index 327.11
Bargains 19,021
(Friday's close)

Lloyds Bank gets the clearing season for the big four clearing banks under way with its final on Friday and it is expected to show a substantial leap in profits from last year's pre-tax £229.9m. Analysts' estimates range from £355m to £382m for this, the third largest of the big banks.

Preliminary results from Lloyds Bank International, a wholly-owned subsidiary, were considerably better than expected. Pre-tax profits were 87 per cent ahead in the year to September at £120.6m.

These results benefited from exchange rate movements and other exceptional items but were in sharp contrast to the performance of other international banks and reduced margins. Lloyds, however, has obtained most of the benefit from the lower sterling/dollar rate and analysts expect to see little further growth in 1982.

The quality of earnings in the bank sector as a whole is

ECONOMIC VIEW

Today: Industrial production figures for December are likely to show a fall in line with the manufacturing sector, particularly in the drop was made worse by bad weather, but coming after a similar decline in November it suggests that recovery faltered late last year.

That will not dent Government confidence that recovery is now firmly under way; a slight dip around about Christmas was always expected.

But it will give extra determination to the Engineering Employers Federation, who meet Mr Leon Brittan, the Treasury's Chief Secretary, to press for aid for businesses in the cut in the National Insurance Surcharge and changes in public spending.

In Brussels, European Finance Ministers are holding a meeting at which they may review world interest rates and prospects for the European Monetary System.

WEDNESDAY: Average earnings figures are expected to show a rise of between 1½ and 1 per cent in December, continuing the downward trend in past years.

The average earnings index is still boosted by settlements made late in 1980. According to the Confederation of British Industry, settlements are now running just below 1 per cent.

THURSDAY: Detailed estimates of the money supply and bank lending are due, confirming recent estimates that the money supply grew by 1½ to 1¾ per cent in banking in January. Private bank lending has been buoyant.

FRIDAY: The first estimate for the country's total output, the gross domestic product, is published. This rose in the third quarter of 1981 after two years of decline.

BOARD MEETINGS

TODAY: Interim: Apex Properties, F. Copson, Equipe, G. Frith, Roan Consolidated Manufacturing, particularly in the drop was made worse by bad weather, but coming after a similar decline in November it suggests that recovery faltered late last year.

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DIARY

Today: Leyland vehicles unions discuss redundancies dispute. EEC finance ministers meeting, Brussels. Tuesday: Resumed meeting of shareholders of Associated Communications Corporation, London. British Railways board meeting, London. Wednesday: CBI Council meeting, London. Personality Milkmen of the Year, National Dairy Centre, London. Thursday: Asbestos strike. London Transport Trade Union London Transport committee announces Defence campaign against fare rises. Friday: TUC youth conference, Congress House, London.

Freight rates set to soar as exports flag

By Michael Bailey, Shipping Correspondent

Falling British exports to Europe could force freight rates up by over half over the next two years making exports even more difficult.

This is because the massive imbalance - at present a ratio of two to one and getting worse - between cargo eastbound and westbound between Britain and Europe is making the trade hopelessly uneconomic for ferry companies which have been prevented from doing anything about it by the cut-price competition with tankers.

Basic rates are now so low that the long-term future of the trade is threatened, operators claim. Concerns such as European Ferries, P & O and Sealink may be forced to

agree rises well above the rate of inflation this year and next. Low rates and the imbalance between exports and imports are the main reasons that Sealink was forced to withdraw the proposal for two jumbo ferries for the Harwich route.

Ferry operators have succeeded in getting some rate rises - many went up by about 12 per cent last month - to recoup immediate cost inflation. But they estimate that the base rate has been eroded to such an extent that rises of around 15 per cent this year and next on top of the 10 to 12 per cent for inflation will be needed to get the trade back on a sound footing.

The poor performance of British exports may come as something of a surprise in the light of recent government statements that Britain's balance of trade with Europe is good. But that referred to trade value and took in the fruits of North Sea oil. What concerns ferry operators is the cargo volume in actual freight tons. This has been static or falling while imports continued to rise.

Mr George Hollway, chairman of the Bell-short-sea container group, said: "The British exporter has been doing magnificently in hanging on to European sales against the drag of a strong pound. But some have

found the going too tough and have had to drop out."

Mr Hollway says this has made the east-west imbalance worse and as ferry companies jostle for the scarce British return cargo to the Continent eastbound rates have fallen to a ridiculously low level.

While exporters cannot be expected to relish the prospect of rises above the rate of inflation, they should be warned by what has happened in the trade to Scandinavia, Mr Hollway says. Tor Line, Swedish Lloyd and Roto have all disappeared, and the trade is dominated by Denmark's DFDS, which put rates up 20 per cent in January.

Soviet debts to West rise by \$6,000m

By Peter Norman

The Soviet Union, in the new year, has increased its indebtedness to the West by \$6,000m, according to figures issued today by the Bank for International Settlements in Basle.

The BIS shows that the Russians increased their net indebtedness to the West by \$6,000m in the first nine months of 1981. By the end of September, the Soviet Union owed the BIS \$15,375m while Russia's bank deposits in the West had been run down to \$4,512m. Nine months earlier the Soviet Union's borrowing stood at \$13,388m and its deposits in Western banks were a healthy \$8,568m.

The BIS said that the Soviet Union was the second largest net taker of funds from international banks after Mexico in the nine months under review. Its figures confirming a rapid rise in Soviet debts will come as no surprise to international bankers who have been viewing with growing alarm the increasing amounts of Soviet gold and timber being offered for sale in recent months.

There is little doubt that the Soviet Union has had to draw on its Western assets to help finance its own ailing economy and its increasingly inefficient empire in Eastern Europe. Some observers have also suggested that the rundown in its Western bank

deposits could have been prompted by advance knowledge of the military takeover in Poland and fears that the West might move to block the account.

The oil-rich Opec nations have also begun to appear in the BIS statistics as net borrowers from Western banks for the first time since the end of 1978.

In the third-quarter of last year members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries increased their gross new borrowings from the banks by \$2,400m or nearly twice \$1,300m of borrowings transacted in the second quarter of 1981. At the same time the oil exporters withdrew funds worth \$700m from Western banks with the results that they were net lenders of funds worth \$3,100m in the three months to the end of September.

The BIS attributes the drying up of oil wealth in Western banks to the shrinking of the Opec current account balance of payments surpluses and a shift in the oil countries' investment policies towards longer-term placements.

Energy savings

Energy demand in Britain will grow by only 0.6 per cent each year until 1990, according to a forecast today by Cambridge Econometrics. The figure is less than half the average 1.3 per cent growth rate forecast for the economy as a whole.

Fears grow for De Lorean

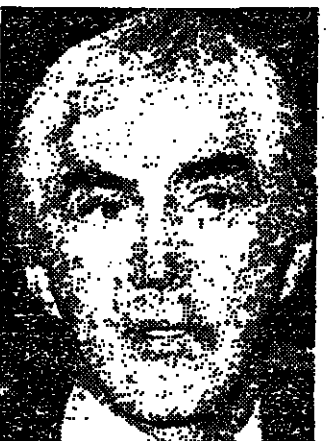
By Bob Rodwell, Belfast

Mr John De Lorean, head of the troubled sports car group, is expected to fly to London from New York today to be told by Mr James Prior, the Northern Ireland Secretary, that the Government will not provide further financial aid for his Belfast plant.

Unless Mr De Lorean's own efforts over the past two weeks to raise substantial funds of the New York market were successful and there are no signs of that - receivers are likely to be sent in to the Belfast factory this week.

Over the weekend at his Suffolk farm, Mr Prior has been studying a gloomy report from accountants Coopers and Lybrand and receiver Sir Kenneth Cork on De Lorean's viability. The report is said to show that the company had liabilities of more than £30m over and above its indebtedness to the Government and without an immediate and very substantial injection of new money it can no longer continue to trade. The report, handed to Mr Prior on Friday night, did not recommend the Government to provide the extra.

Last Friday 1,100 of the



Mr De Lorean: no cash from Mr Prior

company's Belfast workers were made redundant and closure will result in the loss of the remaining 1,500 jobs. As many as 4,000 other jobs are also at risk in other Ulster and mainland companies which have been providing components and services for De Lorean. Chief among these are GKN's Bilston division which makes the chassis, Barrett Engineering of Abingdon, Oxfordshire, which survived the

closure of MG cars by switching to component production for the Belfast factory, and the Northampton-based Chamberlain-Phipps group which established its Belfast subsidiary specifically to supply De Lorean with seats and interior trim.

Mr Richard Gordon, regional director of the Confederation of British Industry in Northern Ireland, called last night for the Government to continue supporting De Lorean. Having taken the decision to back a high-risk project and put up venture capital, it should live with the consequences of that decision, he said.

For Ulster's Alliance Party Mr Seán Neeson contrasted the treatment being handed out to Belfast car workers with those at British Leyland whose employment had been protected with hundreds of millions of pounds from public funds.

Mr George Clark, official of the Northern Ireland branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said yesterday that the unions had known about the company's debts of around £30m for several weeks.

Leyland strike talks to hear 'alternative'

By Clive Cookson

The Management of Leyland Vehicles, BL's truck and bus subsidiary, today meets strikers who have shut down the factories at Leyland, Lancashire, and Bathgate, West Lothian, for four weeks.

Both sides acknowledge that this week will be critical for the future of Leyland Vehicles and its 18,000 employees. The management had warned that BL will have to wind up truck and bus manufacturing permanently unless the 13 unions quickly accept their strikers' demand that the company's plan to make 4,100 workers redundant.

In response, the union negotiators will give the management a 44-page report, *Leyland Vehicles - The Workers' Alternative*, which proposed the withdrawal of all redundancies as the basis for a return to work.

The Leyland strike committee's "alternative strategy" calls on the company to make more components in-house, to do scrap plans to buy more engines, gears and axles from outside suppliers in "blatant disregard" of

quality and cost. The unions want additional investment, including a new £30m foundry, to mass-produce light-weight engines and complete re-equipment in machine tools.

Leyland Vehicles was losing £2m a week before the strike started, because of the slump in the British market. Demand for lorries over 3.5 tons - the sector on which the company is most dependent - has fallen by half over the past 18 months and is now running at no more than 40,000 trucks a year.

However, the unions do not accept the company's pessimism about the prospects for a significant upturn in demand. They quote a prediction from the Economist Intelligence Unit that commercial vehicle production in the United Kingdom will increase by 28 per cent in 1982.

Pressure on both sides to settle the dispute increased over the weekend after J. C. Bradford switched the Leyland to Perkins as the main supplier of diesel engines for its earthmoving equipment.



Roland Smith: "I am quite relaxed"

Double trouble for Mr Smith

By Philip Robinson

Professor Roland Smith, the "man of a thousand boardrooms", could lose two of his string of chairmanships this year. Lorch has threatened to sack him as £50,000-a-year, part-time chairman of the House of Fraser Stores Group if its second attempt to gain control succeeds and now he is under attack as chairman of educational publishers E. J. Arnold, where he earns another £11,000 a year.

His entry to Arnold six years ago was on the recommendation of merchant bankers S. G. Warburg, as it was to House of Fraser. He became chairman in 1979 when a row split the family-dominated small publishing company and saw the dismissal of one of the three Arnold brothers, Martin, as chairman and managing director.

Mr Arnold has been trying to get his job back ever since by organising a consortium to bid for the company, which has plunged from a

£500,000 profit to £1.5m loss for the year to January, 1981.

A month ago, Professor Smith told shareholders - the majority of whom are family trusts of a 200-a-share bid from Performance Securities, headed by Dr Michael Sinclair. Professor Smith, a Manchester Business School pundit, is a director of the London Trust group, which formed part of a consortium to buy Dr Sinclair's Allied Investments medical group for £8m after it ran into loss.

Six of the seven Arnold directors supported the bid, but other shareholders claimed that directors ignored other offers, one from Mr Martin Arnold's consortium and the other - worth around 250p a share - from the quoted group, Hestair.

All three bids were well below the net asset value around £10 per share but Arnold has faced difficult trading. Professor Smith said in his annual review last year that shareholders could not

expect sustained profit recovery before the early months of 1982. National Westminster had indicated continued financial support and negotiations were together with overdraft facilities.

A £2.4m sale and leaseback of a stationary factory would reduce bank borrowings, which were then just under £4m.

Ten days ago, Professor Smith said that Dr Sinclair, whose bid was subject to an accountant's investigation, had withdrawn his offer. Mr Arnold's consortium and directors are considering the next move, but which succeeds in buying the company, it is understood Professor Smith would relinquish the chair.

Professor Smith said: "I am quite relaxed about the situation. We have been going through a rough period along with other companies in the same field. When Dr Sinclair's offer was put to us there were no others on the table."

Gill may receive £500,000 payoff

By Drew Johnson and Philip Robinson

Opposition to Mr Jack Gill's £560,000 golden handshake from Associated Communications Corporation could collapse if Mr Robert Holmes a Court's separate, increased bid for ACC is successful. Bell Group the master company of Holmes a Court, has posted its formal offer containing two concurrent offers to ACC shareholders.

The second of the two offers emerged this weekend, and shows that as well as making a 20p increase in the bid price, the Bell Group is aiming to obtain outright control of ACC.

Bell's bid matches that of its rival bidder, Heron Corporation, at 340p for voting shares and 85p for the non-voting shares, and is dependent on obtaining 90 per cent of the non-voters. If successful, Bell Group's offer would lead to cancellation of ACC's British stock market quotation.

The new bid could convince opposition to Mr Gill's pay off - a consortium of pension funds and insurance companies which controls 13.7 per cent of the non-voting shares - that their best course would be to accept the increased offer and drop their legal objections.

Mr Holmes a Court said yesterday that acceptances could go as high as 90 per cent and the petitioners could still have a shareholding. But under the circumstances the petition would have to be amended.

The unprecedented double bid is subject to approval of the Takeover Panel. Mr Peter Frazer, a member of the panel, said yesterday that he did not see any problem with it, but the panel would have to consider the terms of the offer in detail before its approval.

He said: "It is a very unusual conception, but there's nothing wrong with that."

Mr Holmes a Court is seeing the panel today. The 26-page document offer, which will be lodged with the Stock Exchange, will begin to unveil the very serious financial position facing ACC before Mr Holmes a Court made his first offer.

The second bid is said to be designed to give shareholders the maximum leeway. The higher bid will be closed to shareholders before the first offer itself closes.

Shareholders will now be faced the options of taking 85p per share, the 65p offer, or leaving their money in the company under the management of Mr Holmes a Court. If they choose to do that, the non-voting shares will be enfranchised.

Heron is scheduled to make an appearance in the Appeals Court today in an attempt to overrule the irrevocable acceptance of Bell's initial offer by 66 per cent of the voting shareholders. But the new Bell bid may force a rethink. Heron's directors were in close consultations with their advisers, Barclays Merchant Bank, all day. A spokesman for the bank said yesterday that the company's position was still being considered.



Holmes a Court: new offer

Threat to 600 jobs and the future of design

Pall over British fabric printing

By Rupert Morris

The fabric printing industry in Britain once world famous for producing Liberty prints and other well loved designs, is on the point of dying. Desperate efforts will be made this week to save the jobs of 600 workers who are to be made redundant within a few months at Tootal's factory at Strines, near Manchester. The closure was announced last month but only now are its implications becoming clear.

The Strines factory is the last major fabric printing works in Britain and although many of the large stores now get printing done abroad some small clothes designers are in despair. "I have no idea where we can go now", Miss Jackie Staples, of Jake Dress Designers and Manufacturers of Mayfair, said. "There is no comparable print studio in the country". Miss Susan Collier, of Collier Campbell

international fabric designers and converters, was even more distraught. "I think the most awful thing is the lack of Englishness. There won't be a design industry to support English design in the future. There is an intimacy between designers, weavers and printers. If you cannot get designs printed in this country it will be uneconomic to have fabrics woven here so more weavers could go out of business. We will be putting a block on designs. In the end the British consumer will be the loser."

Collier Campbell has most of its designs printed at the Strines works. Now the work will have to be done abroad. The closure of Strines has been expected for a year or more. Tootal blamed the continuing decline in demand for printed fabrics, erosion of profit margins and growing imports of fabric

A single shift was introduced at Strines two years ago with 260 redundancies in administration staff. But the losses continued. Tootal unions and management met again tomorrow but with little hope of averting the closure.

Mr Brian Leach, regional officer of the National Union of Dyers, Bleachers and Textile Workers, said: "Our proposals to run the factory on the commission printing basis have been rejected out of hand. But Strines has skills that do not exist anywhere else in the country and there is still a market. Since the closure has been announced, there have been orders for several million metres of material enough to take them through till June, a time when trade would be normally slack."

"The demand for printed fabrics has dropped about 80

per cent since 1978", says Mr Roy Walker, Liberty's chief print buyer. "The fashion is for plain fabrics now. It will take us a while to find other sources, to do our 'prints' in Strines does about half of it - about two million metres a year. We just feel sad that another British industry is being the dust. We will have to try France, Germany, Switzerland, Austria or Japan, Hongkong and the United States, in that order."

Mr Peter Sartain, of Jaeger, was the most philosophical of Tootal's customers. "It is a shame of course", he said, "but we had problems with quality at Strines and although we supported them as far as we dared we were down to having only one design printed there. We get most of our printing done in Switzerland which is a bit more expensive but more reliable."

Consortium planned for chip credit cards

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

A consortium headed by the British Technology Group and the National Physical Laboratory is being formed to develop the commercial applications of personal microchip cards.

The cards, similar in size and shape to a credit card, contain a programmable microcomputer. The technology is already being developed by Philips for use in the French market. Among the 12 British companies which have expressed an interest in joining the consortium are Ferranti, Marconi, British Telecom and National Giro.

The partnership, to be called the Tokens and Transactions Control Consortium (TTCC), will draw on research into data security developed at the National Physical Laboratory at Teddington and the business applications highlighted by the National Research Development Corporation.

The plastic card is extremely versatile and can be

used as a security key for opening a door and in a range of applications which extends to electronic banking.

The card will employ the latest anti-fraud coding techniques and when inserted into a computerised slot machine, could be used to activate a range of consumer transactions.

The Philips device, which harnesses the same technology has been developed in co-operation with the scientists at the Laboratoire d'Electronique et Physique Appliquee at Limeil-Brevannes in France. The card contains two microchips - one which acts as a processor and the other as a memory. A magnetic strip for identification can be programmed to contain information about the user and if necessary can have a photograph on the front.

The British project will develop along similar lines to that of Philips.

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

MANAGEMENT

Nail-biting over Polish debts

Poland's 500 or so Western bank creditors should know this week whether the agreement rescheduling around \$2,400m of debt, due last year can be signed at last.

The Bank Handlowy, of Warsaw, is due to pay today the last of the \$500m in interest and principal originally promised by the end of last year as a condition for rescheduling the bulk of what Poland should have paid its creditor banks during 1981.

There is bound to be some last-minute nail-biting in bank board rooms for at least another 24 hours because today is a bank holiday in the United States. But late last week, bankers in Europe appeared confident that the Poles would meet their deadline and plans were already being made to hold the signing ceremony in the headquarters of the Dresdner Bank in Frankfurt on March 4.

The debt rescheduling, assuming that it does happen will mark a new chapter in

international banking history. The large international banks making up the "taskforce" of Poland's creditor institutions will be able to congratulate themselves on having held a diverse and potentially unruly mob of banks in line over months of difficult negotiation, thus heading off the unknown perils of having the country declared in default.

But the time for celebration will be short. Having settled last year's debt, the immediate question will be what to do with the Polish debt falling due this year and every year until the end of the 1980s.

Poland, on its own admission, owes \$26,500m to the West. Rather less than half of this is owed to Western governments while \$14,230m are owed, according to the bank for international settlements, to banks in Western industrial countries. An estimated \$4,700m of debt are due this year, of

which roughly \$2,500m are owed to Western governments and the rest to banks. Poland has no chance of servicing and paying back the debt it owes this year and under normal circumstances would be seeking further credits from the West by now.

But the military takeover in Warsaw two months ago has changed dramatically the worse the Polish debt problem, and with the rescheduling of the 1981 debt out of the way, the banks will be back in the frontline between East and West.

The banks want to continue the rescheduling process as an orderly restructuring of Polish debt, but they are known to be unhappy at the turn of events and have hinted that they may negotiate to reschedule their 1982 debt unilaterally with the Poles.

A small neutral country could probably restructure its 1982 Polish debt. Whether a diverse group of 500 banks could do the same in a hostile political climate must be open to doubt.

Peter Norman

Steel Phoenix fails to rise

Phoenix Two, one of a pair and may be even a trio of the legendary fabulous birds, which the Government hoped would emerge from the British steel industry has failed to take wing.

After months of desultory negotiation directed towards creation of a jointly-owned company to rationalize their respective interests in engineering steels, the British Steel Corporation and GKN, the country's largest independent steel-maker, have broken off talks — for the present.

The brief announcement that the pair had not found it possible to identify (ie, agree) a viable basis on which to structure a joint venture, came as no real surprise.

But their failure is a blow to Government aspirations to accelerate privatization; to Mr Ian MacGregor, the BSC's chairman; and to European efforts to secure long-overdue retrenchment in product areas suffering from chronic over-capacity, and thus hindering strategies designed to remove the red ink from steel companies' balance sheets.

This assortment of engineering steels business has therefore been under the BSC's wing for some time, supplementing the corporation's own engineering steels facilities, largely concentrated in the Sheffield area.

It appears that the protracted talks with GKN (the largest United Kingdom user of BSC steel) finally foundered on disagreements of a technical nature and hence over the final ownership profile.

Central to the discussions was the balance to be struck in the proposed new company of facilities for producing the particular steels, and amounting essentially to the proportion to be produced by the continuous casting route as against billet derived steel.

Ministers will be unhappy a deal has not been done. So too will Mr MacGregor. Among the criteria being used to measure the final size of this controversial £1.8m retrospective transfer payment to his former employers at Lazard Freres, is the extent to which the corporation is "privatized" during his three-year tenure as chairman.

Mr MacGregor and his banker — the Government — have other pressing problems. There is the impact of the rail strike, and the severe

weather last month, on the corporation's finances, which are overlaid by the wider problems of American action to curb steel imports and the fragile efforts by the EEC Commission to boost steel prices at a time of continuing weak demand.

Prospects of BSC striking a deal have not been good. The year end are receding fast. Meanwhile, none doubt that rationalization in engineering steels will be necessary. Current demand is running at slightly over 2 million tonnes a year, well below existing capacity.

BSC and GKN spoke of their intention to review periodically Phoenix. Two possibilities in the light of changing conditions. Amid growing uncertainty, that earlier will certainly be earlier than the reputed life-

circle of the Phoenix, which legend has it, burned itself every 500 years or so before rising from the ashes.

The first Phoenix, Allied Steel and Wire, owned 50-50 by BSC and GKN, was born almost 20 years ago. It was then a simple creature, interested in the production of wire rod and bars.

The second, which was actively encouraged by Industry Department ministers and their officials, was to have been a similar creature charged with the same task in engineering steels.

But creation of Phoenix Two was always destined to be a much more difficult task, not least because other interests were to have been involved.

Peter Hill

At last CCA finds some fans

Vitriolic attacks on SSAP 16, the current cost accounting standard, have almost come to be regarded as a rite of passage among chairmen of medium-sized companies.

After just over a year in existence, the standard has withstood a mixture of apathy, severe criticism and even the threat of a grassroots accountants revolt.

The latest information from the accounting standards committee, which oversees SSAP 16's progress, shows that compliance among listed companies is about 85 per cent. Unfortunately for these staunch

advocates of current cost accounting, this is not an indication that most quoted companies think SSAP 16 is a wonderful invention.

Inclusion of CCA information is required under the Stock Exchange listing agreement. Failure to provide it also leads to an auditor's note of implicit disapproval, but various companies have bucked the accountant's line.

None of these are giant companies, but some are well-known names, including Lesney Products, Stone Plant Industries and Allied Plant Group. Some, such as Allied, have stated the time and money involved was not

considered as justified; others erring on the side of caution, promise CCA information in the next set of annual accounts.

The accounting standard setters charge that, with some honourable exceptions, the City has not yet accepted that SSAP 16 is really a worthwhile invention. The argument runs that since the City is dominated by financial salesmen, any technique which reduces company performance is bound to be unpopular.

It is probably a legitimate counter criticism that CCA is disliked because accountants have failed to explain it properly. For among the charges, that CCA is too subjective, too volatile or irrelevant as far as tax is concerned is the criticism that it is too hard to understand.

A new report from Peat Marwick Mitchell, the international firm of chartered accountants, argues that acceptance of CCA is greatest among the top British companies. It says five out of the 10 top industrial companies, BP, Ford, Imperial group, ICI and Unilever, now use CCA for financial management account purposes.

But it is also reasonable to point out that many big companies are well supplied with internal accounting research departments, which can minimise the teething difficulties smaller companies might find.

The benefits of using CCA are tangible: rates of return based on current cost principles can highlight the case for closing down or cutting back in operations with inadequate rates of return; CCA in the costing process can lead businesses away from underpricing, and perhaps most important of all, CCA gives a real measure of how much of a company's capital base is paid out in dividends.

The Peat's survey shows that on latest figures about 40 per cent of British companies pay dividends, and that a big influence could be the consideration of CCA for tax purposes in the Government's recent Green Paper.

Though this was considered very "green", and is not expected to lead to any tax changes in the lifetime of the present Parliament, the problem of tax and CCA is important.

Drew Johnston

CAPITAL MARKETS

Fresh start on money sums as oil prices fall

Lots of sums are having to be done in Wall Street and London as a result of the fall in oil prices. Even last December, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development was forecasting a cut in the Opec oil surplus from last year's \$60,000m to \$35,000m for 1982.

Now, the level of oil prices is all over the place. While Saudi Arabia's Shaikh Yamani remains adamant that the \$34 for Arabian light oil will hold through this year, other Opec producers are doing deals that one way or another will result in their being paid much less than official prices. So, since that OECD figure was calculated before pressure mounted on the spot oil market, the take-home pay for many of the oil producers is going to shrink.

International capital markets are by now wary of being too definite on energy costs and prices. Saudi Arabia's domestic political situation is still fragile, Iran and Iraq still fighting. But the disappearance of the Opec surplus will mean that a number of country's credit ratings will be very much healthier, at the expense of Opec producers.

Principle gainers will be Japan, Germany and France and other major industrialized nations who are dependent for vast quantities of their energy on imported oil.

A loser will be Britain — it has been this country's petro-currency status which has helped to attract overseas investment. Others will include Canada and Mexico, both of whom are already out of favour with the international capital markets because they have such insatiable appetites for money.

Everyone benefits in one way — the soaring inflation rates of recent years has largely been the fault of the higher energy costs caused by Opec's successful cartel. Since so many governments are monetarist in their economic philosophy, lower inflation rates should soon find their way through to lower interest rates.

No one is suggesting that a fall from around \$34 to, say, \$30 dollars a barrel is going to take the problem of high energy costs away entirely. But it is a large enough percentage change to put a different complexion on international capital markets in 1982.

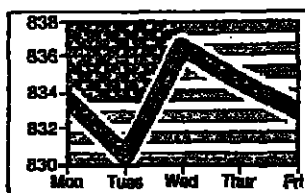
Looking at investment in the domestic United States bond markets, the firm Salomon Brothers is advising a cautious stance. Richard Johnson, Jr., commenting on the group's bond market research publication Relative Values in the 1982 Bond Market, stresses the need to stick to top-quality names. Prudence and caution are the watch words. The publication's opening words are: "In the fixed-income markets, volatility will continue to be the hallmark".

Given the uncertain conditions they foresee, Mr Johnson also points to the merits of staying with the short-end of the market.

Sally White

MARKETS ROUND-UP

Budget fears hit prices



Stockmarket prices are expected to fall once again this week in response to rising interest rates and concern over the forecast of a record deficit in President Reagan's budget.

Last week saw prices drop for the second week in a row. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 17.22 points to 833.81, following a drop of 20 points the week before.

Much of the blame for the drop went to shock over the \$91,500m (about £5,000m) deficit projected in Mr Reagan's budget at the beginning of the week.

What is worse is that such a deficit could depress investors' confidence and further raise interest rates. High interest rates puts pressure on stock prices because they provide high yields by comparison with Treasury Bills and long-term government bonds as well as popular money market funds.

Concern over interest rates has been apparent in the market for the past eight out of ten Mondays. On each of those days stock prices have fallen in response to disappointing news concerning the basic money supply in the United States.

The state of the money supply is linked with interest rates because investors believe that if it grows too quickly the Federal Reserve will tighten credit and thereby push up interest rates.

Recently, the money supply has been growing far more quickly than anyone had expected. Last Friday the figures were once again disappointing, showing a gain of \$2,300m in the latest reporting week.

As a result, prices are expected to drop tomorrow when the Washington birthday holiday today.

In fact, many experts believe that continuing concern over interest rates and the money supply will keep the stockmarket weak for some time to come. Some analysts are predicting that the Dow will drop to somewhere between 720 and 760 in the first half of this month.

BRUSSELS

Brussels continues to be the star of the European bourses as the Government's pro-business policies attract investors from both home and abroad.

The Belgian shares index advanced 4.13 points over the past week to close at 98.22, showing a gain of more than 30 per cent in the two months since the formation of Mr Wilfried Martens' Centre-Right coalition.

Last week, the market shrugged off Monday's anti-government general strike in the French-speaking south of the country. It also took heart from the Government's decision to let Cockerill-Yards, Belgium's second-biggest shipbuilder, go bankrupt.

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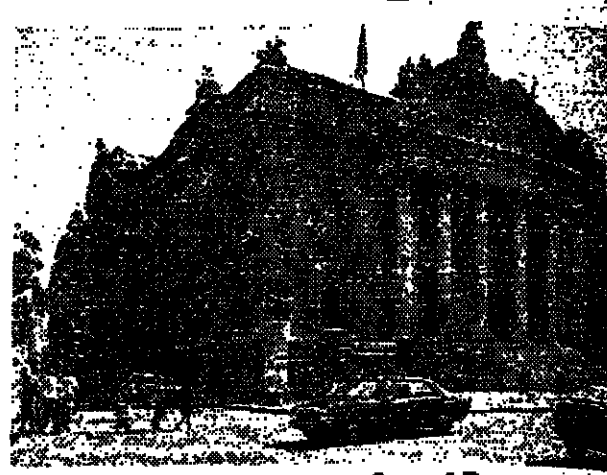
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The Belgian Bourse, Star of Europe

After trading lower, the Commerzbank index ended the week little changed at 697.4.

JOHANNESBURG

Retailing has again been the main feature of activity on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and although more takeover bids have materialized heavy dealing in the shares continues.

The rumour that the title of control lead by South African Breweries is not over and that it will be sold to 174,000 of London-based Greaterman's Stores, a shares were traded, pushing the price up from 1160 to 1220 cents.

The finance minister, Mr Owen Horwood, produced a mini-Budget which clearly signalled, if any doubt remained, that South Africa's gold-led boom is over and that it is now fully exposed to the chill winds of international recession.

He announced an increase in general sales tax (equivalent to VAT) to raise revenue to meet a growing Government deficit and gave all indications that his main Budget, late in March, will be savage.

It is doubtful if the deal will turn sentiment, which remains bearish. The market shed 95 points last week with investors showing no signs of buying. Some leading property stocks have lost up to 20 per cent of their market value in two weeks.

Bears cite softening property prices, United States interest rates, a weak local currency and disturbing news from China concerning the position of Deng Xiaoping, the vice-chairman, ignored during last year's bull market, China-watching is once again fashionable among brokers.

AUSTRALIA

Full advantage of the takeover boom last year was taken by Matine, the property and equity investment company. Selling into the top end of the bull market brought windfall profits and a sharp increase in interest income.

Consolidated pretax profit rose from A\$243,408 to A\$315,456 in the six months to December 31. But higher interest income resulted in a sharp increase in the tax rate from 3.8 per cent to 9.1 per cent. This whittled the profit increase to A\$25,772 from A\$234,138 to A\$260,772.

Southgate Investments lifted profit 14.1 per cent from A\$184,000 to A\$210,000 in the six months to December 31. The boost outstripped turnover growth, which rose 6.4 per cent from A\$1.67m to A\$1.99m.

Meanwhile in the food industry there is considerable stock exchange interest in Elders-IXL's intended A\$90m takeover of the United Kingdom Wood-Hall Trust. This is expected to be just the beginning of an acquisitive period by the newly-merged Australian Pastoral and Food Group.

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ABRIDGED PARTICULARS
Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the Ordinary shares of Amersham International public limited company, issued and now being issued, to be admitted to the Official List.

Amersham International public limited company

Offer for Sale

by N. M. Rothschild & Sons Limited

and Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited

of up to 50,000,000 Ordinary shares of 25p each at 142p per share of which 44,860,000 Ordinary shares are owned by

The Secretary of State for Energy

Authorised	Share Capital	Issued and now being issued fully paid
£15,000,000	in 60,000,000 Ordinary shares of 25p each	£12,500,000
£1	in one Special Rights Preference share of £1	£1

Amersham is engaged in the development, manufacture and sale of radioactive materials for use in medicine, research and industry.

The Application List will open at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 18th February, 1982 and may be closed at any time thereafter.

Copies of the Offer for Sale (on the terms of which alone applications will be considered) with Application Forms are available from:

N. M. Rothschild & Sons Limited, New Court, St. Swithin's Lane, London EC4.

Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited, New Issues Department, 21 Austin Friars, London EC2.

National Westminster Bank PLC, New Issues Department, Drapers Gardens, 12 Throgmorton Street, London EC2.

Cazenove & Co., 12 Tokenhouse Yard, London EC2.

and from: National Westminster Bank PLC, Oakfield Corner, Hill Avenue, Amersham, Buckinghamshire.

National Westminster Bank PLC, 8 Bennetts Hill, Birmingham.

National Westminster Bank PLC, 80 George Street, Edinburgh.

National Westminster Bank PLC, 8 Park Row, Leeds.

Ulster Bank Limited, Investment Division, 88 High Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland.

National Westminster Bank PLC, 117 St. Mary Street, Cardiff.

National Westminster Bank PLC, 14 Blythswood Square, Glasgow.

National Westminster Bank PLC, 55 King Street, Manchester.

The Offer for Sale is today being advertised in full, with an Application Form, in the Financial Times and The Daily Telegraph.

Just add Co2 to find more oil

Oil companies in the United States are confident that a pioneering oil recovery technique based on carbon dioxide will prolong the life of some oil fields by as much as 25 years.

The first big commercial application of the technique, which is already being studied as a possible means of extracting more oil from the North Sea, is scheduled to start at the end of this year.

A consortium that includes Texaco, Shell, Comoco, and Atlantic Richfield, is preparing to start construction of a

480-mile pipeline to transport liquid carbon dioxide from west Colorado to its Wagon Wheel field in West Texas. The carbon dioxide will then be injected under pressure into the oil reservoir in an effort to "flush out" more of the oil trapped between the pores of the oil-bearing rock.

Shell, the consortium's operator, says pilot tests of the process have been so successful it hopes to boost the oil recovery rate from 39% to 52%.

That will increase the amount of oil recovered from

850 million to 1,130 million barrels which is the equivalent to the discovery of a small to medium sized North Sea field.

Total cost of the project is \$1,760m (£950m) and the first supplementary oil production is expected to start in early 1984.

Shell estimates there are sufficient natural reserves of carbon dioxide in the Colorado region to support production of an extra 2,000 million barrels of oil in Texas and New Mexico.

Jonathan Davies

Eurobond prices

(yields and premiums)

STRAIGHT DEBT	Price	YIM
Amst 1982	98.10	10.10
Amst 1983	98.10	10.10
Amst 1984	98.10	10.10
Amst 1985	98.10	10.10
Amst 1986	98.10	10.10
Amst 1987	98.10	10.10
Amst 1988	98.10	10.10
Amst 1989	98.10	10.10
Amst 1990	98.10	10.10
Amst 1991	98.10	10.10
Amst 1992	98.10	10.10
Amst 1993	98.10	10.10
Amst 1994	98.10	10.10
Amst 1995	98.10	10.10
Amst 1996	98.10	10.10
Amst 1997	98.10	10.10
Amst 1998	98.10	10.10
Amst 1999	98.10	10.10
Amst 2000	98.10	10.10
Amst 2001	98.10	10.10
Amst 2002	98.10	10.10
Amst 2003	98.10	10.10
Amst 2004	98.10	10.10
Amst 2005	98.10	10.10
Amst 2006	98.10	10.10
Amst 2007	98.10	10.10
Amst 2008	98.10	10.10
Amst 2009	98.10	10.10
Amst 2010	98.10	10.10
Amst 2011	98.10	10.10
Amst 2012	98.10	10.10
Amst 2013	98.10	10.10
Amst 2014	98.10	10.10
Amst 2015	98.10	10.10
Amst 2016	98.10	10.10
Amst 2017	98.10	10.10
Amst 2018	98.10	10.10
Amst 2019	98.10	10.10
Amst 2020	98.10	10.10
Amst 2021	98.10	10.10
Amst 2022	98.10	10.10
Amst 2023	98.10	10.10
Amst 2024	98.10	10.10
Amst 2025	98.10	10.10
Amst 2026	98.10	10.10
Amst 2027	98.10	10.10
Amst 2028	98.10	10.10
Amst 2029	98.10	10.10
Amst 2030	98.10	10.10
Amst 2031	98.10	10.10
Amst 2032	98.10	10.10
Amst 2033	98.10	10.10
Amst 2034	98.10	10.10
Amst 2035	98.10	10.10
Amst 2036	98.10	10.10
Amst 2037	98.10	10.10
Amst 2038	98.10	10.10
Amst 2039	98.10	10.10
Amst 2040	98.10	10.10
Amst 2041	98.10	10.10
Amst 2042	98.10	10.10
Amst 2043	98.10	10.10
Amst 2044	98.10	10.10
Amst 2045	98.10	10.10
Amst 2046	98.10	10.10
Amst 2047	98.10	10.10
Amst 2048	98.10	10.10
Amst 2049	98.10	10.10
Amst 2050	98.10	10.10
Amst 2051	98.10	10.10
Amst 2052	98.10	10.10
Amst 2053	98.10	10.10
Amst 2054	98.10	10.10
Amst 2055	98.10	10.10
Amst 2056	98.10	10.10
Amst 2057	98.10	10.10
Amst 2058	98.10	10.10
Amst 2059	98.10	10.10
Amst 2060	98.10	10.10
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BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

INTER-CITY PEOPLE

SHROPSHIRE
A Porsche off course?

Feenants agreeing to rent units of 30,000 sq ft or more in an industrial estate at Bridgnorth, Shropshire, on the edge of the British motor industry, are being offered a German car, a Porsche 924, which retails at about £30,000.

Stewart Hickman, managing director of the agents for the Stanmore industrial estate, tells me that the offer, which is open until July 31, has yet to bring in a firm taker but there are a number of inquiries.

He sees no incongruity in offering a foreign car to firms taking space in an estate whose principal attraction is said to be that it is only 10 miles from the West Midlands, home of many British motor accessory and components companies.

The reason for choosing the Porsche, Hickman says, is that he happens to be a Porsche fan. He used to have a 924, and now has a 911 SE Sport.

Hickman (Stanmore) is agents for Stanmore Industrial Estate Ltd, an interest of Stewart Hickman's father, Jeff, and in turn a subsidiary of a Bermuda-based company.

Blackwells, the Oxford bookellers, are flying their flag up and down the Channel until Sir Freddie Laker's airlines are back in the air. Managing director Nigel Blackwell says: "Sir Freddie has saved us a great deal of money — £100,000 — on flying freight abroad."

EIRE
Irish ayes

Odd, isn't it, that Cosmopolitan, which many people would describe as a sexy magazine for women, should do so well in the officially prudish Irish Republic?

Cosmopolitan this month celebrates its tenth anniversary in Britain, and Dublin-raised Deirdre McSharry (below) her ninth year as editor. However you describe

it, Cosmopolitan, I now learn, sells about 25,000 copies a month in Ireland — more than any other Irish title.

Ms McSharry now disputes the "sexy" part of the image, and says that these days only one item in about 50 is about that topic. What is more, she points out that about a quarter of Cosmopolitan's readers are men.

HAMPSHIRE
Spring sprung

Christopher Hartbridge, a director of the family firm of soft drinks manufacturers, Hartbridge & Sons, tells me that the old artesian well upon which the business was founded is to be reopened.

"The water level dropped and since about 1970 we have used mains water," he told me. "We've deepened the bore, and we can use it for Hambledon Spring Water."

This is a new line, an attempt both to celebrate the company's centenary this year, and to cash in on the current taste for fizzy table waters like Perrier.

Hartbridge & Sons is at Hambledon on the outskirts of Portsmouth, sometimes described as "the cradle of cricket." The firm hopes the cricket commentator and writer, John Arlott, will declare open the well in May.

Wilfred Wright, the station manager of the Fawley, Southampton, GEGG plant tells me that he had a surprise when he came up to London last week as a guest at the annual dinner of the Institute of Petroleum.

Wright found himself next on the guest list to Wright, a Mr H. Wright.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr Eric Major has been appointed a director of Hodder & Stoughton Holdings, the parent company controlling Hodder & Stoughton's worldwide book publishing business.

Mr John F. Valentine has become chairman of the horticulture division of Fisons. He will also be an associate director of the group.

Anthony B. M. Good has been made vice-chairman of the Guild of Business Travel Agents. Mr T. O'Hanlon will join the partnership of Mullens & Co from April 8.

INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK

Bailey Morris analyses the man accused of prolonging the world recession with his tight money policies.

The Titan at the Federal Reserve



And since his term does not expire until August 1983, there is very little the president can do but talk.

As chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, an organisation created by Congress in 1913, as separate and independent from the White House, Mr Volcker maintains deliberately the distance between the Central Bank and the Administration.

He believes this to be proper and correct, in keeping with the original intent of Congress.

It is also true that Mr Volcker has reservations about certain aspects of Mr Reagan's programme. In recent weeks he has warned repeatedly of the ill effects on the financial markets that Mr Reagan's massive projected deficits will have during the next two years.

Finally, Mr Volcker is unsympathetic in his battle against inflation, even if it means high interest rates and high unemployment in the short term. This he made clear in Congressional testimony last week when he released a required, semi-annual report on American monetary policy.

"We have made some headway," he said, in announcing the Central Bank's decision to stay with a tight money policy, allowing only a slight increase in the money supply this year.

'Paul Volcker remains convinced his policies are correct and that inflation is still America's number one enemy. He believes it with a sort of religious fervour'

weeks ahead in homes across America as the Reagan Administration escalates its attack against Mr Volcker, thus focusing public attention on the role of the Central Bank and its resolute chairman.

At six feet, seven inches, Mr Volcker is hard to overlook in a crowd.

His career spans 30 years in private banking and government in which he has served variously as an officer of the Chase Manhattan bank and aid to David Rockefeller.

Under Secretary of the US Treasury, and President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

He is best known as a brilliant intellect who has presided over the most important American monetary decisions of the postwar period.

It was Mr Volcker, for example, who fashioned the United States position and served as its principal negotiator during the turbulent early-1970s when the Bretton Woods monetary compact collapsed and the world moved from fixed to floating exchange rates.

Indeed, C Fred Bergsten, a well known economist and former Carter Administration official, credits Mr Volcker with averting a massive breakdown of the international economy in 1973 when he negotiated what is known as the "Volcker

agreement" which resulted in a 10 per cent devaluation of the American dollar and a temporary float of the Japanese yen.

This Mr Volcker accomplished through a series of monetary agreements between the United States and his United trading partners which he negotiated in lightning trips to Tokyo, London, Bonn, Paris and Rome.

Still, despite a formidable intellect, a long list of accomplishments, and a reputation as a good grey banker, he is not a colourless or humourless man.

He is seldom seen, for example, without a 20-cent cigar clamped between his teeth even when testifying before Congress. His suits are shiny and he often appears dishevelled.

And several years ago, when invited to a Halloween party by a group of friends in New York, he slapped green body paint on his bald pate, donned emerald green tights and went as the Jolly Green Giant.

It is economics, however, which is "his profession, his passion and his only hobby," said a colleague of Mr Volcker's. He lives simply during the week, working long hours before leaving for a short walk to his apartment near the Federal Reserve building.

On weekends, he boards the shuttle flight to New York where his wife, who suffers from arthritis, still lives.

Because of the pressures, his wife's illness, and the fact that he took a pay cut from \$110,000 (£58,981) to \$57,000 a year, it has been rumoured that Mr Volcker plans to resign from the Central Bank and return to a private banking job in New York.

But this is not likely at present, in the opinion of his friends and colleagues. They say Mr Volcker believes he must stay put in order to steer the monetary system through what is potentially its most difficult period since the Great Depression.

Mr Volcker's past experience in presiding over what he regarded as the humiliation of the dollar devaluation, has hardened his resolve to stay with the fight against inflation.

In his own words: "The battle against inflation has been fairly joined, and we can see signs of progress. We must carry through until the battle is won."

Frances Williams and John Whitmore explain the issues behind the row in America

Plain man's guide to the US economy

What is wrong?

The United States, like other countries, has not escaped the historically high rates of inflation prevalent over the past few years.

The annual inflation rate in the US, as measured by the consumer price index, peaked at 14.1 per cent in early 1980. Since then it has fallen back to just under 9 per cent.

Inflation is not the only worry, however. Although the US economy fared far better than some during the second half of the seventies, its growth rate has been slowing, as has the growth in productivity. After growing at an annual rate of about 4 per cent through the 1960s, gross national product expanded at about 3.4 per cent a year through the 1970s.

Which strategy?

President Reagan came to office committed to a policy of "supply-side" economics. This aimed to tackle the problem of low growth and productivity by cutting taxes, particularly for the rich.

The most ardent "supply-siders" have argued that cutting taxes in this way would not lead to any loss of government revenue, at least over the longer term. The extra growth engendered by the tax cuts would mean that additional tax revenues would soon start flowing into government coffers.

But President Reagan did not buy the extreme "supply-side" package. He decided to go for a more moderate "supply-side" approach, combining tax cuts with government spending cuts as well. These were not enough to offset fully the tax cuts, especially since he also wanted to increase defence spending.

To combat inflation, President Reagan supported the tough money policy being pursued by the United States central bank, headed by Mr Paul Volcker.

Mr Volcker, however, is not a "supply-sider". He emphasises the need to restrain the government's budget deficit so that monetary growth can be reduced without unduly high interest rates.

Why the row? The American economy is in a mess. The recession is deeper and more prolonged



People at the sharp end — a dole queue in Detroit

than was predicted, and unemployment — going on for 9 per cent — is close to post-war peaks. Making it worse are unprecedentedly high and volatile interest rates, which threaten to stifle economic recovery at birth.

Mr Volcker says it is all the administration's fault. It has been deluded by the "supply-siders". The tax cuts, which have not been offset by spending cuts, will increase the budget deficit. In addition, the administration has been far too optimistic in its economic assumptions. Deficits will in fact turn out to be far higher than the administration is predicting. All this means that huge government borrowing needs will drive up interest rates.

Meanwhile, Mr Volcker insists that the Fed is determined to keep the lid on the growth of credit to counter inflation.

President Reagan and his Treasury Secretary, Mr Donald Regan, think differently. They admit the budget deficit is on the high side. But they claim that the cause of crippling high and unstable interest rates is the Fed's mismanagement of monetary policy.

Deficit dilemma

In the current financial year, which began in October, the administration expects federal borrowing to reach a record \$99,000m. This is predicted to fall to \$91,500m next year, assuming Congress accepts President Reagan's proposed \$56,000m worth of measures to cut borrowing. In 1984, the year Mr Reagan had hoped to balance the budget, the projected deficit is \$83,000m.

These may seem huge sums of money. But they are relatively small in the context of the US economy. The deficit is only about 2.7 per cent of the total national product.

At odds with the country's restrictive anti-inflationary monetary policies. The autonomous Congressional Budget Office has forecast that the 1983 budget deficit could reach \$159,000m with deficits of well over £100,000m continuing for several years.

The future

In the short term it may yet be that monetary growth will subside, allowing interest rates to fall.

But the differences of opinion over medium-term prospects will remain and it is difficult to see how the two sides can be reconciled, except perhaps by a much more rapid decline in the rate of inflation.

So long as the medium-term uncertainty persists, United States interest rates will remain at higher levels than they would otherwise have been. And that promises not only to slow down the pace of economic recovery in the United States but also to set a similar pattern for every other country.

The big debate

The Federal Reserve has taken a lot of stick for both the high level and the volatility of United States interest rates.

Certainly, interest rates have come down some way from the record levels of last spring, when they topped 20 per cent. But with the banks' prime lending rates back up to 16 per cent, the real (pre-tax) cost of bank finance to leading companies is still around 8 per cent.

Mr Volcker has tried to defuse some of the criticism of the Fed by arguing that it is the market and not the Fed that sets interest rates. But whatever the finer points, the fact remains that it is the Fed's struggle to do its (perceived) job and contain monetary growth that is keeping interest rates high.

The Fed hopes that the present bulge in M-1 will prove short-lived and that the aggregate will start to return to a path consistent with this year's growth target of between 2 1/2 and 3 per cent.

Even then, however, the Fed fears that interest rates would not necessarily stay down for all that long. It is often argued that the

Business Editor

Hot air is not good policy

Allowing the export of offshore gas is the most radical, and the most politically explosive, of all policy issues in the North Sea. In raising it last week, Energy Secretary, Nigel Lawson, may have meant merely to put the fear of competition into the Gas Corporation and new heart into the exploration industry.

A reading of the text reveals that he promised no more than to consider exports for new discoveries if there were a surplus of gas supplies to British requirements. But you don't release a genie of this mischievousness from the bottle and expect it to return meekly when no longer needed.

In the first place the statement must encourage the EEC to press again the British to change their rules against export. So far the British ability to avoid Treaty of Rome rules on free movement of goods and services has been based on a discreet use of regulations requiring the oil and gas to be landed in Britain and through the British Gas Corporation's rights as first refusal buyer of all gas discoveries. Once a government says that in principle it will allow exports, then it lays itself open to action in the EEC courts to force it to follow this through. Nor can it then keep to guidelines restricting exports only to surplus supplies.

In the second place, in publicly favouring gas exports, the Government is bound to change the climate of negotiations between companies and the British Gas Corporation. For the companies, especially BP and Shell, this could be very lucrative indeed. The difference between Continental and top British prices for gas is some 20-25 per cent, or more than 5p per therm. Even if the companies don't necessarily wish to export, it gives them a better bargaining position to force more out of the British buyer — British Gas Corporation or private.

For the consumer, the immediate effect will be less beneficial. Whatever the efficiencies or inefficiencies of the Gas Corporation, its monopoly purchase position has enabled the ordinary consumer to purchase gas at considerably less than his Continental counterpart.

Freedom of gas exports will expose the British consumer to the choice of either seeing his future supplies pre-empted by the richer and stronger German and French, or having to pay a considerably higher price to keep them in the country.

It will have another effect. Many of the new gas finds are smaller accumulations close to the border with Norway, where a major trunkline system is now being planned to take gas to North-West Europe. Now that the plans for a grand British gas gathering pipeline to take gas from the area to Scotland have been founded on PSBR constraints, the Government has been keen to encourage smaller privately financed systems to Scotland.

Fine, if this is the only way they will be able to land their gas. Not so fine if they can more conveniently take it to the Norwegianian Dutch systems. Smaller finds will then tend to go to the Continent not Britain, even if British prices are as high as Europe's.

Mr Lawson's hope, and the logic of his beliefs, is that the short-term adverse effects will be outweighed by the long-term increase in discoveries and development which competition will encourage. All splendid stuff if the gas market were a market of freely transportable products.

North Sea gas was and is infinitely elastic supply. But it isn't. What it is, is a critical product which is largely sold through monopoly utilities, which has to be delivered through pipelines.

Mr Lawson may have meant simply to waive the prospect for its psychological effect. But, if that is

Laker/Rowland Whose money?

Giving credit to Sir Freddie Laker's brave if doomed attempt to take on the subsidized airline cartels is one thing. Enthusiasm for one of the People's Airline, a pale version of the original enterprise, is another. Firstly, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) which grants licences to airlines, must think very carefully about the desirability of allowing a man responsible for the largest corporate receivership since Rolls-Royce, to repeat the cheap price experiment on the blue ribbon London-New York run.

Total losses on this route last year were some \$600m. Laker's Skytrain services were running at only 40 per cent capacity last month compared with a break-even figure of at least 60 per cent. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) raised transatlantic fares by 15 per cent a month ago in an effort to recoup losses. Pan American has been selling seats at below cost just to pull in some cash.

Under these circumstances, the prospects for the People's Airline look bleak at the very least.

Secondly, even if the CAA was to bow to political pressures to get Sir Freddie in the air again, there is likely to be months of delay before new licences can be granted. There will be formal protests from other independents like British Caledonian as well as from the nationalized airlines.

This brings us to the financial difficulties. Sir Freddie has estimated that a new airline would require working capital of, say, £10m. The purchase of five DC10/30 wide-bodied jets would cost, say, £80m.

But as the Orion Royal project showed last week ago, investors are not interested in supporting Sir Freddie when even the world's major airlines are effectively bust. Despite the public's willingness to back a folk hero, the sums required are too large to allow a flotation on the United Securities Market without institutional support. And do either Mr Rowland or Sir Freddie himself have the kind of money needed to make up the gap?

Amersham Fair rating

Amersham International is a unique company and so comparisons are hard to make. But at an issue price of 42p a share, giving a 100 per cent premium on the ratio of 18.9, the merchant bankers seem to have weighed up the interests of the future shareholders and the Government pretty well.

The p/e is calculated from the profit forecast of not less than £8.3m pre-tax for the year to the end of March, double last year's results and almost £2m more than profits made in 1978, the previous record. Fully taxed earnings per share are forecast at 7.5p.

As anyone who buys on almost 19 times earnings must — the chief justification is sales rising at 20 per cent a year. Amersham, which makes radioactive isotopes for medicine and industry, has a strong growth potential in North America and Japan particularly, and is banking heavily on its technological lead and quality control.

Amersham is not subject to the sensitivity that would go with involvement in weapons, and certainly enjoys a good reputation in its rather esoteric field. So the likelihood is that when the shares come on market they will go to a slight premium, but not enough to spark off an unseemly scramble. There might be some embarrassment if it is a field day for the stags.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited
27/28 Lovat Lane London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212
The Over-the-Counter Market

Capitalisation £000's	Company	Last Price	Ch/g Price week	Gross Div (p)	Yld %	P/E Actual	Fully Taxed
1,234	ABJ 8d 10% CULS	124	—	10.0	8.1	11	15.4
4,052	Airprung Group	70	—	4.2	6.1	3.7	3.3
1,100	Armstrong & Rhodes	44	—	4.3	9.8	—	—
12,464	Bardon Hill	204	—	9.7	4.8	9.9	12.1
5,958	Deborah Services	77	—	6.0	7.8	3.8	7.2
4,143	Frank Borsell	130	+1	6.4	4.9	11.7	24.1
11,702	Frederick Parker	81	+3	1.7	2.1	35.2	—
941	George Blair	51	—	—	—	—	—
3,899	IPC	96	—	7.3	7.6	6.9	10.4
2,378	Isis Conv Pref	105	—	15.7	15.0	—	—
15,458	James Burrough	94	—	7.0	7.4	3.0	6.7
2,591	Robert Jenkins	112	—	8.7	7.8	8.2	10.3
2,760	Scrutons "A"	254	+2	31.3	12.3	3.5	9.0
4,003	Torday & Carlisle	56	—	5.3	9.5	8.6	8.0
2,885	Twinlock Ord	164	—	10.7	6.5	5.3	9.8
2,102	Twinlock 15% TILS	137	+4	—	—	—	—
4,120	Unilock Holdings	77	+1	15.0	19.5	—	—
9,253	Walter Alexander	75ad	—	3.0	11.1	4.8	8.2
5,228	W. S. Yeates	224	+5	13.1	5.8	4.2	8.6

Prices now available on Prestel, page 48146

BELL
SCOTCH WHISKY
BELL

Stock Exchange Prices

Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin Today. Dealings End Feb 26 & Contango Day. Mar 1. Settlement Day. Mar 8

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in Issue for the stock quoted)

[illegible]

THOU hast granted me life
in favour, and my visitation
Job 10: 12

BIRTHS

CARDIGAN—On February 11th, at St. George's Hospital, London, to the Rev. Canon David and Mrs. Margaret Cardigan, a son (Thomas).

DAVIES—On February 11th, at St. George's Hospital, London, to the Rev. Canon David and Mrs. Margaret Davies, a son (Christopher).

GATES—On February 11th, at St. George's Hospital, London, to the Rev. Canon David and Mrs. Margaret Gates, a son (Christopher).

GRANT—On February 11th, at St. George's Hospital, London, to the Rev. Canon David and Mrs. Margaret Grant, a son (Christopher).

HOLMES—On February 11th, at St. George's Hospital, London, to the Rev. Canon David and Mrs. Margaret Holmes, a son (Christopher).

DEATHS

BUSCHROD—On February 12th, 1982, at his home, 12, St. George's Road, London, aged 86, Mr. John Buschrod, a retired teacher and a member of the Church of England.

HUTCHINGS—On February 12th, 1982, at his home, 12, St. George's Road, London, aged 86, Mr. John Hutchings, a retired teacher and a member of the Church of England.

ROBINSON—On February 12th, 1982, at his home, 12, St. George's Road, London, aged 86, Mr. John Robinson, a retired teacher and a member of the Church of England.

SPINNA—On February 12th, 1982, at his home, 12, St. George's Road, London, aged 86, Mr. John Spinna, a retired teacher and a member of the Church of England.

WILLIAMS—On February 12th, 1982, at his home, 12, St. George's Road, London, aged 86, Mr. John Williams, a retired teacher and a member of the Church of England.

IN MEMORIAM

WOOD—On February 12th, 1982, at his home, 12, St. George's Road, London, aged 86, Mr. John Wood, a retired teacher and a member of the Church of England.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Blind Look To You—A charity for the blind, founded in 1832, and now one of the largest in the world.

CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN

Where more of your money goes to research—A campaign to raise money for cancer research, with a view to finding a cure for the disease.

FREE BOOT & SKI HIRE

if you take a ski holiday with PAN PACIFIC—A special offer for ski holidaymakers, providing free boot and ski hire.

CHEAP GREECE!

Why not take a holiday in Greece this year?—A special offer for Greek holidaymakers, providing cheap flights and accommodation.

COST CUTTERS ON FLIGHTS

Low cost flights to Europe, Africa and the Middle East—A special offer for low cost flights, providing cheap fares to various destinations.

UK HOLIDAYS

Short breaks in the UK—A special offer for short breaks in the UK, providing cheap fares and accommodation.

SHORT LETS

Instant flats, houses, and more—A special offer for short lets, providing cheap accommodation for short periods.

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BAGATELLE LAGOS

To the many that have loved the BAGATELLE in LAGOS and shared beautiful memories since the early sixties with the Mansour family and Alan Green, Violette and Hussein Mansour are happy to inform their friends, and those of the "OLD BAG", that after the fire disaster that razed the club in 1978 the rebuilt BAGATELLE is back in full swing and is better than ever.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

SKI WITHOUT GOING SKI—SKI SNOWBALL—A special offer for ski holidaymakers, providing cheap fares and accommodation.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

TAKE OFF WITH AIRLINE—A special offer for airline holidaymakers, providing cheap fares and accommodation.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

THE GREEK SIDE OF CORFU—A special offer for Greek holidaymakers, providing cheap fares and accommodation.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

CLUBAIR BUSINESS & LEISURE—A special offer for clubair holidaymakers, providing cheap fares and accommodation.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

LOW COST FLIGHTS—A special offer for low cost flights, providing cheap fares and accommodation.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

AUSTRALIA TRAVEL CENTRE—A special offer for Australia holidaymakers, providing cheap fares and accommodation.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

FREE BOOT & SKI HIRE—A special offer for ski holidaymakers, providing free boot and ski hire.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

CHEAP GREECE!—A special offer for Greek holidaymakers, providing cheap fares and accommodation.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

COST CUTTERS ON FLIGHTS—A special offer for low cost flights, providing cheap fares and accommodation.

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PERSONAL COLUMNS

SKI CHALET HOLIDAYS—A special offer for ski holidaymakers, providing cheap fares and accommodation.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

EUROFAR CUISINE COST-OF-FLYING—A special offer for Eurofar holidaymakers, providing cheap fares and accommodation.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

RESISTA CARPETS SALE NOW ON—A special offer for Resista holidaymakers, providing cheap fares and accommodation.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

RECONSTRUCTION BUCKS—A special offer for Reconstruction holidaymakers, providing cheap fares and accommodation.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

AROUND TOWN FLATS—A special offer for Around Town holidaymakers, providing cheap fares and accommodation.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

THE VERY BEST HOMES—A special offer for The Very Best holidaymakers, providing cheap fares and accommodation.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

QUALITY HOMES AND PLATS—A special offer for Quality holidaymakers, providing cheap fares and accommodation.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

FOR LUXURY FLATS AND HOMES—A special offer for Luxury holidaymakers, providing cheap fares and accommodation.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

WANTED TO LET FLATS/HOMES—A special offer for Wanted holidaymakers, providing cheap fares and accommodation.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

ST. JOHN'S WOOD—A special offer for St. John's Wood holidaymakers, providing cheap fares and accommodation.

HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

FLAT SHARING—A special offer for Flat Sharing holidaymakers, providing cheap fares and accommodation.

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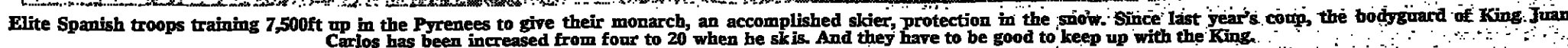
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Letter from New York



Syrian mutiny reported as rebels hold out

From Out

security searches for arms dumps. What was going on in Hama, he said, was no different from what happened in France, the United Kingdom, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other countries."

The parallel with Saudi Arabia—which pays the bulk of the money to Syria's army in the Lebanon—was somewhat pointed, especially after the Iranian revolution. Saudi troops fought pitched battles to drive Muslim extremists from the Great Mosque at Mecca. The European comparisons were less credible: the British Army, for instance, has hardly resorted to tank warfare in the Middle East, and the British police are not in the habit of using rifles to deal with disturbances.

Hama has long been a seat of insurrection in Syria, and four of the city's mosques, said to be under shellfire today, were "bombed" by the Syrian air force more than a decade ago, long another, less violent uprising.

Leading article, page 11.

Next, they had to avoid those cinemas considered as "art houses." The distributors had an early offer from the Plaza cinema in Manhattan for example, but this was thought of as too intellectual for a venue and they opted for Cinema 1—what Mr. Boone describes as "a classy Eros Side house but one which had screamed *The Exorcist*."

A third important tactic was to opt for a winnable campaign to get the exhibitors to invest in unknown rather than invest in a big-advertised title. The campaign was to be a "last year 1966 television ad campaign" to bring in TV air-time to promote themselves—TV advertising is no longer unusual. "We needed something unusual."

The film opened first in New York, Los Angeles and Toronto. A week later it was shown in another 30 cities. Throughout last summer, *Christies* played in just these nine towns, almost the slowest release in film history. The movie was well-received, however, and some very influential people purchased some complimentary local figures. Complimentary tickets were sent to several groups, including the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the American Jewish Congress, the NAACP, the Christian Anti-Communist Association.

As for the nine *Christies* shown mainly in those nine towns, television advertising was still shunned but by now newspaper reviews had begun to appear and to appear in large numbers. These were long, based on the opinions of prominent local citizens who had seen the film and endorsed it.

[illegible]

Weather

An anticyclone will become established to the NE.

6 am to midnight

London, SE England: Some frost and fog in places at first but generally cloudy with a little rain in places; wind E light or moderate; max temp 7 or 8C (45 to 46F). E. Anglia, E Midlands: Frost and fog patches inland at first; sunny periods developing but clouding in SE with periods of rain in places.

	-4.1	-8.4	-4.9
	-3.8	-6.9	-3.8
	-3.7	-2.1	2.4
Average regional prices of secondhand households (not seasonally adjusted)			
	Average	% change	
	price	over preceding	
	Year 3 months	year	
North	17,347	-0.2	-3.1
York/Humber/			
North-west	16,217	-6.3	-7.2
North-east	20,430	-5.5	2.6
East Midlands	18,400	-1.1	-1.2
West Midlands	22,735	3.9	3.8
East Anglia	22,678	-2.9	-4.1
Wales	15,447	3.7	-0.6
South-east	25,233	-3.7	-0.6
South-west	25,335	-1.0	3.4
South-east	26,384	1.0	3.4
Greater London	33,643	2.3	-6.0
Northern Ireland	19,839	0.5	-0.7
Scotland	21,014	1.8	-6.3

NOON TODAY: Pressure is shown in millibars. **FRONT** Warm Cold Occluded
Symbols are not advancing edge

	AM	HT	PM
London Bridge	6:17	6.4	6:45
Annapolis	11:36	11.3	11:28
Darnestown	9:54	9.8	10:22
Poolesville	7:55	7.6	8:33
Pahokee	7:04	6.6	7:53
Starfish	1:18	5.5	4:48
Wicomico	10:23	7.5	10:45
Latta	10:45	6.8	7:06
Milled Holes	10:25	5.8	11:09
Stevens	9:42	6.8	10:07
Boas	9:05	3.2	10:37
Potomac	9:06	4.8	9:37
Beltsville	9:05	3.5	10:11
Perquimans	7:29	4.3	4:15
Chesapeake	3:22	5.5	3:47
Stonewater	3:30	5.3	3:46
Swans	10:48	8.0	11:23
Tier	8:30	4.4	8:47
Chesapeake Bay	8:24	5.2	8:37

Tide measurement in feet: Low-3.2000

—blue sky; m—blue sky & clouds; c—cloudy; o—overcast; f—fog; d—drizzle;	Highest day temp: Plymouth, Pezance
—hail; m—mist; r—rain; s—snow; sh—	Isles of Solly, JIC
showers; s—showers; ps—periodical	max: Beaufort Park, 5C (-41F). Lowest:
rain with snow. Wind speed in mph	5C (-41F). Highest:
	refusal: St. Marys, Cornwall, 0.28
	Notes: none: Pezance, 9.3hr.

[illegible][illegible]

ACROSS

- 1 Use fewer words. Order accepted by some journalists (5)
- 9 School given lighter extract from Moby Dick, perhaps (5-3)
- 10 Nothing more than Escalibur's last recipient? (4)
- 11 The poet Wellesley - below stairs VIP (5,6)
- 13 Bet includes one non-starter, Little Basket (6)
- 14 The best Chinese? (8)
- 15 Afterthought about priest's direction for cloak? (7)
- 16 Cursed a blunder in Richard's expedition? (7)
- 20 Put down a club? (8)
- 22 Without hesitation this French historian (6)
- 23 What they define as "manner of speaking", "heavenly sign"? (12)
- 25 Striking in vain? (4)
- 26 Period comes to a stop (8)
- 27 Schubert's work looked down upon lately? (8)
- 5 They supply trout for cooks? About right? (7)
- 6 Element in mounted carps - good for foreign use (6)
- 7 Coat for Charles? (4)
- 8 Girl goes free on £100 being collected? (8)
- 12 Car feature broadcast? (12)
- 15 Lost place in poetry reading - (8)
- 17 Family servant kept? (8)
- 18 The German was indispensed when coming off the line (8)
- 19 Goddess is among writer's household gods? (7)
- 21 A jockey put on this sum of money (6)
- 24 Some poetry with no end of slang (4)

**The Solution
of Saturday's
Prize Puzzle**

DOWN

- 2 Opening for players (8).
- 3 Quiet indignation about one causes foreboding (12).
- 4 Recuses see merit in eccentricity (8).

Magpies gather in chattering flocks in the treetops, their long tails pointing in all directions. The assemblies of jays, blue jays, and crows, in early spring, reveal excitement before nest-building begins next month. Over lakes and ponds, mallards and blue-winged teal are seen in pairs. Green-winged ducks quack pair. Green herons and kingfishers call with a longer, shriller laugh, the equivalent of the "chickadee" of songbirds. Woodpeckers, depending very much on ants, they suffered in the winter frost. Tree-creepers are scarce, but a few are on the trunks, ending in a flourish, entered as they make their way up.

Foxes are mating; their chilling screams echo through the night. They are slowly becoming accustomed to the snow on the mountains and making their way through neglected gardens.

Rabbits have begun to breed, and the first ones are being born. In their underground burrows. The young will be up and out on the grass in a fortnight.

On the first snow, the ground is covered in a white. The woods are like pale green burtons.

And in some places have burst into leaf. On hedge-banks, the yellow celandines are appearing. On waste ground, the toothed leaves of dandelions grow in the grass. Young neries sing in the upwarp. R.M.

Christie's, King Street: English porcelain, 11. **Christie's, South Kensington:** Oriental paintings, prints, scrolls, Indian and Islamic paintings and miniatures, 10.30. **Gold and modern silver, 2:** prints, 10.30. **2. Phillips, Blenheim Street:** furniture, carpets, objects, 11; watercolours and drawings, 11; oil paintings, 2. **Sotheby's, Bond Street:** valuable printed books relating to science and medicine, 11.

Rail
British Rail services recommence today after yesterday's strike by Aslef drivers, with another strike set to start tonight. Eastern and Southern regions hope to operate normal commuter and long-distance trains this morning. Rerouting of services because of tomorrow's strike starts tonight; passengers should

long-haul flights from terminal three at Heathrow airport. London should operate without too many problems.

Seas

The Wandermere Car ferry will be out of action for six weeks from the start of the summer. Roadworks on the M4 will be between 9 pm and 6 am; M11 between junction 5 (Loughton) and junction 7 (Harlow); lane closures in the M25; and lane closures in the A20. Junction construction near New Car, Madstone, causes delays during rush hours.

ber's motion on defence. Debate on procedure.

Lords (2.30): Copyright Act (Amendment) Bill. Debate on select committee report on science and government. Debate on tidal power from Severn, estuary.

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The Daily Express notes today that Mr Michael English, Labour MP for Nottingham West, is sponsoring a Bill to provide for the royal rights of the first-born, regardless of sex. "On the whole our queens have been better than our kings. There is no good royal reason for insisting that the heir apparent be male, rather indeed the reverse."

port authority, preferably elected
and probably covering not only
London but also the capital's
suburban catchment areas to in-
tegrate British Rail, Bus and
Tube services and fares structures.
"This might clear the way for
the eventual abolition of the
Greater London Council itself."

	Buyer	Seller
Australia	1.77	1.69
Austria Sch	32.15	30.15
Belgium Fr	35.25	31.25
Canada	2.31	2.22
Denmark Kr	14.93	14.18
France Fr	11.54	10.84
Germany DM	4.56	4.31

Portugal Esc	131.00	124.89
Spain Pth	192.75	183.75
Sweden Kr	11.13	10.55
Switzerland Fr	3.68	3.46
US \$	1.90	1.83

London: The FT Index closed down 1.7 at 570.5 on Friday evening.

Anniversaries

Galileo Galilei was born in Pisa, 1564; Jeremy Bentham in London, 1748; Alfred North Whitehead, philosopher and mathematician in Ramsgate, 1851; Ernest Shackleton in Kilkeel, Ireland in 1874; Gotthold Lessing died at Brunswick, Germany, 1781.

Lighting up time:
cigarettes 5.45 per to 6.43 am
tobacco 5.55 am to 6.59 am
cigarettes 8.44 per to 7.7

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday, F. scale.

	C	F		C	F
Birmingham	7	45	Beverly	6	43
Edinburgh	6	43	London	7	45
Glasgow	8	46	Manchester	5	41

Forecast

Sun: 6 pm to 6 am 9C (48F). Humidity:
 6 pm, 63; per cent. Rain: 24hr. to 6 pm,
 1.5in. Sun: 24hr. to 6 pm, 0.5in. Bar:
 normal sea level, 6 pm, 1,009.0 millibars,
 rising.

YESTERDAY
 Temp: max 6 pm to 6 pm, 9C (48F).
 min 6 pm to 6 am, 5C (41F). Humidity:
 6 pm, 77; per cent. Rain: 24hr. to 6
 am, 0.9in. Sun: 24hr. to 6 pm, 1.6in.

[illegible]